

Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you support letting the CNMI government borrow money to pay off its \$231.6 million debt with the Retirement Fund?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS

6

As of July 13, 2009

Phase 1: Viruses circulating among animals have yet to cause infections in humans.

Phase 2: An animal influenza virus is causing infection in humans, and is considered a potential pandemic threat.

Phase 3: An animal or human-animal influenza virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.

Phase 4: Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

Phase 5: A strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned mitigation measures is short.

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnnmpheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE



Ancient Temples

It's early on a Sunday morning in Cambodia, and I'm standing at a 12th-century moat.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

In 5 years, 85 NMC graduates pass licensing exams. PAGE 2
\$1.5M road construction project starts on Tinian. PAGE 6

House OKs initiative to let govt borrow \$200M to pay Fund

to pay its debt to the Retirement Fund.

Twelve lawmakers voted for the adoption of the initiative. Three others—Tina Sablan, Joseph N. Camacho, and Ed Salas—voted against it.

The measure will add a new section to

Article 10 of the CNMI Constitution to authorize the government to issue pension obligation bonds.

If approved, it will take the government 30 years to pay off the debt.

The initiative will go back to the

Senate as the House amended it to reflect that the government may issue pension obligation bonds in an amount (excluding refunding bonds) not to exceed \$200 million.

See HOUSE on Page 4

Over 700 families on govt's housing assistance wait list



PROCUREMENT WORKSHOP

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE

As part of its efforts to build internal staff capacity, the Northern Marianas College's Procurement and Property Management Office recently conducted its semi-annual workshop aimed at familiarizing NMC faculty and staff with the procurement and property management procedures at the college. The workshops were facilitated by supply specialist Duane Sablan, standing, and procurement manager Anita Camacho, seated far right in front of television screen.

Female juvenile at large after 2 escapes

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

A 15-year-old female detainee is now at large after she escaped twice in a span of five days, the Department of Public Safety said yesterday.

The first escape happened on July 6 at about 6pm, while the suspect was undergoing treatment at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Acting DPS public information officer Jason Tarkong said the suspect escaped through a bathroom window

at the hospital. At that time, she was under the custody of the Division of Youth Services officers.

Police officers who arrived at the hospital aided the DYS officers in searching for the suspect in the area but

See FEMALE on Page 4



A grocery store in the As Lito area has been found selling expired milk products and has been directed to remove the items from its shelves.

In a statement issued yesterday, the Office of the Attorney General said it initiated the investigation on July 13, 2009, in response to a consumer

See AS LITO on Page 4

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Local

In 5 years, 85 NMC graduates pass licensing exams



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

Lt. Julie Bethke, outgoing supervisor of Marine Safety Detachment Saipan, receives the Coast Guard Achievement Medal from LCdr. Felton Gilmore, chief of Prevention and Compliance at Coast Guard Sector Guam, on July 8, 2009. Bethke was presented the award during a monthly Port Operator and Users Committee meeting at the Commonwealth Port Authority Boardroom on Saipan. Bethke has been a member of the POUC for two years, and was honored with a picnic and certificate commemorating her service following the meeting.

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

In the last five years, a total of 85 graduates from the Northern Marianas College's School of Education and Nursing program successfully passed their certification and licensure examinations.

In its report to the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, NMC said this figure comprises all nursing and elementary education graduates from academic years 2003 through 2008.

NMC offers an Associate in Science degree in Nursing and a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education.

The college said that 80 percent of its nursing and education graduates actively seek and obtain their licenses or are certified within two years after graduating.

NMC data show that there were 11 nursing graduates in academic year 2003-2004, of whom eight passed the nursing licensure examination or NCLEX, reflecting an 88.8 percent passing rate.

In 2004-2005, 10 of the 13 nursing graduates successfully passed the test; in 2005-2006, 13 out of the 19 graduates passed; while 15 of the 26 nursing graduates in 2006-2007 passed the same exam.

In academic year 2007-2008, NMC said that nine out of the 12 nursing graduates are NCLEX passers.

Overall, NMC graduated 81

nurses in the last five years, with 55 passing the standard exam. This gives the college an overall passing rate of 88.7 percent.

Based on the number of graduates who were tracked or monitored, NMC said this five-year average of 89 percent of nursing graduates passing the NCLEX is well above the 80-percent target set by the college.

NMC said its goal is to have at least 80 percent of its nursing graduates pass the NCLEX on their first attempt.

Below standard

The five-year average for Elementary Education graduates who pass the Praxis is at 71 percent, somewhat below the standard set by NMC. However, the college said this may be more because of data collection methods rather than student performance.

"The performance standard has been partially met," NMC said in its report to WASC.

NMC records show that there were a total of 99 Elementary Education graduates in academic years 2003-2008, of whom 30 passed the Praxis tests. This translates to an overall passing average of 71.43 percent.

Saipan Tribune learned that in 2003-2004, only four of the eight Elementary Education graduates from NMC passed the Praxis test; in 2004-2005, only eight of the 23 graduates passed the exam; in 2005-2006, four out of 11 passed; and in 2006-2007, only nine out of 29 gradu-

ates passed.

Last academic year 2007-2008, only five of the 28 Elementary Education graduates passed the test.

'Satisfaction survey'

In May 2008, NMC conducted an employer satisfaction survey among school principals that employed an Elementary Education graduate from NMC and found that those who graduated from 2006 through 2009 were employed either before they completed the program or immediately after graduating.

"Several principals communicate regularly with NMC to ensure placement of students in their respective schools as well as to begin dialogue on the hiring of these student teachers," NMC said, adding that the survey results indicated that 93 percent of graduates were performing at a satisfactory and/or above satisfactory level for all elements of the survey.

The same employer satisfaction survey was conducted in 2008 for supervisors at both public and private health care facilities to assess the job performance of graduates of the associate degree in nursing program.

The results indicated that the performance standard has not been met in this area.

NMC said that all major employers will be surveyed beginning 2009-2010 to better assess the job performance of their graduates in both fields.

Bill seeks to require Finance to report status of rebate account

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means introduced a bill yesterday that would require the Finance Secretary to report to the Legislature all monies received and deposited into the special rebate account.

Rep. Ray N. Yumul said the Legislature's constitutional mandate to enact appropriation laws for the CNMI requires that the Finance Secretary identify all funds available to the Commonwealth whether for appropriation or other purposes.

"The Secretary of Finance has previously deposited monies received from cover over claims into the special rebate trust account and used a portion of the same funds to offset the Commonwealth's deficit as well," said the lawmaker in his bill.

However, he said, the receipt of the total amount of the cover over funds was not reported to

the Legislature.

"The Secretary of Finance has a duty to report all funds received by the Commonwealth for any purpose," Yumul said. His bill will require the Finance Secretary to make the report quarterly.

Yumul and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios on Friday disclosed that the government actually received \$41.6 million in cover over tax payments in Fiscal Year 2008, but the administration declared only \$17.2 million.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial on Sunday told *Saipan Tribune* that no cover over tax money is missing as the funding is fully accounted for under the rebate trust account.

Fitial said the lawmakers might have forgotten about having been advised by then Finance Secretary Eloy Inos during an executive session as to where the money was deposited or placed.

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A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

Hafa Adai, ti'ow, and greetings from the Marianas Visitors Authority!

It's our great pleasure to introduce this weekly tourism corner, "Tourism Tuesday" co-sponsored by *Saipan Tribune*.

As a community member, you each play an important role in the development and growth of our tourism industry. Our goal through "Tourism Tuesday" is to engage you with information and ideas that will give you greater understanding of industry issues and how you help strengthen tourism.

"Tourism Tuesday" will feature details about our major markets, marketing highlights, and information about the Northern Marianas destination. We also want to hear from you, so keep an eye open for our trivia questions, on-the-street interviews, and tips on how you can help share the *Hafa Adai Ti'ow* spirit of island hospitality that helps make our islands a beautiful place to visit.

Thank you for being a major partner in our tourism efforts, and we look forward to this continued dialogue in the weeks to come.

Olomwaya,

Jerry Tan
Chairman, Board of Directors

Perry P. Tenorio
Managing Director



This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by *Saipan Tribune*



Yumul

Muña: No need to notify Aggreko of nonrenewal

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The administration will not issue a formal notice of its decision to stop the services of Aggreko in September because this is not required under its agreement with the company.

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Tony Muña told *Saipan Tribune* this yesterday, saying its contract merely states that the initial administration need only inform Aggreko by June 30 if it will extend its services beyond the initial term ending in September. This is equivalent to the 90-day boilerplate notice before any contract termination.

With the overall progress in the repair of Power Plants 1 and 2 generators, along with the continued services of Power Plant 4, Muña said the utilities agency is on schedule to produce enough power to meet the island's peak load. This is

in addition to the 15-megawatt reserve by the end of Aggreko's initial term of service.

"The date with which CUC was to notify Aggreko [of the contract's nonrenewal] has been allowed to naturally lapse. Aggreko is aware of CUC's decision," Muña said, adding that CUC had talked with the company on the corporation's most likely decision as the deadline was approaching.

Muna had earlier asked the Legislature to remove the cap on the number of nonresident workers CUC is allowed to hire. This request has yet to be acted upon by lawmakers.

"Lifting CUC's cap to employ skilled and qualified nonresident workers is important for the stability of power production services. ... The maintenance effort for all CUC generators does not end after Aggreko leaves; it is an ongoing operation," Muña said.

The key to reliable perfor-

mance of any power plant is "maintenance, maintenance, maintenance," he added.

He also emphasized that not removing the cap on nonresident employees at CUC will not delay overhaul and maintenance efforts.

"Not lifting the nonresident

workers cap will not delay overhaul and maintenance effort to bring sufficient power production assets online such that Aggreko services will not have to be extended. However, without additional skilled workers, CUC may not be able to sustain necessary maintenance and operations in a satisfactory manner beyond Ag-

greko," he added.

Muña said many employees currently working beyond 40 hours every week need relief.

Press secretary Charles Reyes Jr. said yesterday that because the administration did not exercise the option to extend, the contract with Aggreko will naturally expire in two months.

Reyes expressed support for

the need to maintain qualified nonresident staff at CUC and vowed to keep asking the Legislature for support.

"We would need access to skilled workers for CUC with or without Aggreko, and we continue to appeal to the Legislature for consideration, in order to properly maintain CUC operations," the press secretary added.

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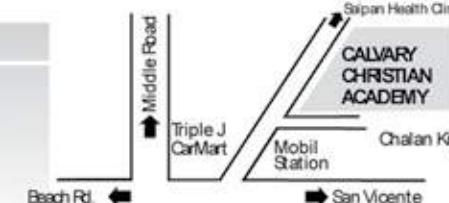
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neider] and the candidates. You mean we're also expecting Babauta supporters to also go for [Heinz] just because of that agreement?" Tenorio said.

There were about 6,000 voters who participated in the GOP's June primary election. It was won by the team of Hofsneider and Arnold Palacios.

'Questionable leadership'

Tom Pangilinan, chairman of the committee-to-elect Heinz-Arnold, expressed disappointment yesterday over the action of his former fellow committee chair. However, he stressed that CNMI citizens live in a democratic society and have the right to express and decide for themselves.

"We're living in a democratic society. ... That's OK," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "But there was a pledge made publicly that whoever wins will be supported by the other team and he's part of the Juan-Galvin team. All I can say is, I am quite unhappy but there's nothing I can do."

Pangilinan also questioned Guerrero's "leadership and loyalty," saying the man has been jumping ships since the beginning. "He was a key officer of the Democratic Party before he moved to the Republican. And now he's with the Covenant. There seems to be some question on his leadership," he said.

When asked if Guerrero's jump will have an impact on the local GOP, Pangilinan said: "I don't think so."

"All I can say is, the dedicated and loyal Republicans will gather together and help improve the party itself in terms of ideologies and philosophies. Traditionally, this party has been winning the elections in the past years and we're regrouping for the best interest of our people," Pangilinan said.

'GOP's gentlemen's agreement was just among the candidates'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The chairman of the local Republican Party yesterday said that the "gentlemen's agreement" signed during the party's primary election last month was a covenant just among the candidates and does not include other party members.

Ed Tenorio, the GOP's overall chairman, had this to say yesterday in reaction to the sudden decision of one of his former committee chairmen to jump ship to the Covenant Party.

During the Covenant Party's rally in Susupe on Sunday, Edward Guerrero was announced as a new member of the party and was asked to speak before party supporters.

Guerrero was chairman of the committee-to-elect Juan Babauta-Galvin Deleon Guerrero and was among the individuals in the "inner circle" that pushed for a memorandum of understanding that whoever wins the primary election will be supported by the losing team as the GOP's official standard bearer.

Guerrero spoke in the vernacular during last Sunday's rally. Yesterday, he declined *Saipan Tribune*'s request for an explanation on his change of heart. "Sorry, I have no comment..." he said over the telephone.

GOP's Tenorio described Guerrero's move as something beyond his control. "I have no control over anybody that supported one person or another," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

When asked about the memorandum of understanding signed by all prospective GOP candidates during the primary, Tenorio said this was merely for the candidates running for the position.

"That agreement was between the two [gubernatorial bets Juan Babauta and Heinz Hofschn-

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Runoff elections bill goes to Fitial for approval

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The House of the Representatives unanimously passed yesterday a bill that establishes runoff elections in the event

that a gubernatorial candidate garners less than 50 percent of the vote.

All 13 lawmakers present in yesterday's session voted yes to the bill. Seven lawmakers were absent.

The House did not insert any amend-

ments to the bill. The bill now goes to the desk of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial for approval.

Vice Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero, in collaboration with the Commonwealth Election Commission, drafted

House Bill 16-220 to amend the election law to provide for runoff election procedures and to allow for the counting of absentee ballots on election day.

The Senate recently passed the bill with amendments. The Senate's ver-

sion is that there is no mandate for local ballots, which are currently required in order to effect preliminary counting of votes on Tinian and Rota.

The Senate also appropriated \$295,000 for the election, \$172,000 of which will go to the Election Commission.

Election Commission Director Robert Guerrero earlier said the Senate's version of the bill is "workable" and that he hopes the House finds it acceptable.

FEMALE

From Page 1

could not find her.

She was later spotted on July 10 around 4pm by detectives Alfred Celes and Melissa Baulechong, who followed her to a house in Kagman III.

She tried to slip out through a window but was apprehended and arrested at about 4:25pm and was brought to the juvenile detention facility in Kagman where she was booked and detained.

Two days later, at about 6pm on July 12, DPS Central received a call that the suspect had escaped again from the DYS juvenile detention.

Police investigators said she was last seen scaling the perimeter fence and running from the facility.

Police and juvenile corrections officers searched the area but their efforts proved futile.

DPS, which is withholding the suspect's name, said she is still at large and the case is under investigation.

NMHC said that economic development activities can also help in the removal of urban eyesores by cleaning up abandoned buildings and vacant lots. This, in turn, fosters economic revitalization of neighborhoods.

The agency said the CNMI government itself has a critical role in reducing the poverty level on the islands and NMHC alone is not capable of creating economic prosperity and reducing poverty.

NMHC, through federal resources, provides rental assistance to very low-income families and provides funds for eligible families to build new homes or rehabilitate existing homes.

of public hearing."

Rep. Salas told *Saipan Tribune* that, if people vote to allow the government to borrow \$200 million to pay its debt to the Fund, who will shoulder the repayment of the obligation bond?

"Obviously, the answer will be the taxpayers from both the private and the public sector. And whose debt is it? It is the debt of the government for failing for many years and continues to fail to remit its employer contribution to the Retirement Fund," Salas said.

"Is it really fair for people in the private workforce to have to pay for the failure of the government to honor a mandate to remit its employer obligation?" he asked.

The \$200 million that is being proposed to be borrowed, Salas said, is to satisfy a public debt that the private sector workforce is not a party of.

\$25K bail for man who allegedly beats wife, kids

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

A man accused by his common-law wife of hitting her and their children several times in the past four years was required to post a \$25,825 cash bail yesterday.

Lee Jesse Omar Reyes was charged by the Attorney General's Office with child abuse or neglect, assault with a dangerous weapon and disturbing the peace.

Reyes was also directed not have direct or indirect contact with his wife and children.

Based on the affidavit of police detective Christopher Leon Guerrero, a female reported a domestic

violence incident at about 12:45am last June 28.

Police investigators who responded learned that about 2pm on June 27, the defendant's wife was preparing milk for their 1-year-old son when the husband arrived and they had an altercation, during which Reyes told his wife to move out and leave the house.

The victim told police that she saw her husband take their sleeping son by the arm and toss the baby to another bed about five feet away.

At one point, Reyes allegedly grabbed her hair and dragged her to the floor. He again picked up the baby and tossed him out of the bedroom door.

Reyes also allegedly threatened them with a knife. That's when she called her father to pick her up and the children.

She then told police later that she did not have the courage to report previous incidents.

It was also found out the defendant has several traffic cases.

Reyes appeared during a bail hearing yesterday in handcuffs and with police escorts. He was represented by assistant public defender Matthew Holley. Assistant attorney general George Hasselback represented the government. Wiseman set the preliminary hearing to July 20 and the arraignment to July 27.

AS LITO

From Page 1

complaint.

The consumer contacted assistant attorney general Michael Ernest, who has been designated as the Commonwealth's consumer counsel, and complained that on Saturday, July 11, the store was offering for sale milk that was "expired in April."

After a brief investigation, a representative from the Office of the Attorney General learned that the store,

which the OAG statement did not identify, was, in fact, offering for sale expired milk in violation of Commonwealth law.

Ernest said the store owner was contacted and informed of the expired milk. The store owner immediately instructed his staff to remove the milk from the sales floor, and the OAG representative witnessed about 70 8.5 oz cartons of milk being collected.

While a majority of the cartons were recently expired, at least one carton expired in March.

"What is disconcerting is the fact that the most out-of-date milk was found in the refrigerator, where people would usually expect to see the freshest products," Ernest said. "This merchant has been made aware of his responsibilities and has promised to do better in the future. I expect that AGIU investigators will be verifying this store's compliance in the near future."

The consumer who filed the complaint was contacted and informed of the results of the investigation. "The consumer seemed happy with our re-

sponse and was glad the milk was removed," Ernest said.

The Office of the Attorney General would like to remind retailers that compliance with the Commonwealth's consumer protection statutes "is not voluntary and investigators will be out to help ensure that the laws are being followed," Ernest said.

If a member of the public wishes to file a consumer complaint, he or she may do so in person at the Office of the Attorney General or by calling at 664-2341. The consumer counsel's direct line is 664-2333. (OAG)

OVER 700

From Page 1

behind the increasing number of local families who need housing aid.

"The housing assistance program waiting list has significantly increased to 700-plus families as of program year 2009," the report states, adding that many of these families are forced to adjust their lifestyles to meet their monthly financial obligations, while other families rely on food stamps as they are barely able to meet their basic needs.

To illustrate its point, NMHC cited

the 1999 Census, which showed that 46 percent of individuals of all ages in the Commonwealth had an income status below the poverty level.

"Although the percentage of individuals living below the poverty line is high, many would not consider themselves 'impoverished' due to cultural conceptualization," NMHC said, adding that people usually turn to family members and friends for basic needs.

Due to the significant increase in oil prices, the cost of utilities and basic commodities are at a record high.

Saipan Tribune learned that from the year 2000, at the time the cen-

sus data was taken, gas prices have since risen to \$4.80 per gallon and utility rates have increased to \$0.37 per kilowatt.

This year, the agency said it will implement a consolidated plan that will promote economic development opportunities, promote self-sufficiency, and fiscal responsibility, and investment in personal achievement.

Participants in the plan, it added, all identify job creation and retention as the foremost economic development activity in the CNMI.

"Only through improved economic opportunities such as high-paying and more rewarding career prospects can

low income persons gain economic self-sufficiency and live above the poverty line," NMHC said.

The agency also expressed support for increasing the minimum wage in the CNMI. It said it will also work with the Workforce Investment Agency to seek opportunities for employment training for those receiving federal housing assistance.

The agency also plans to revive the family self-sufficiency program to promote the development of local strategies for coordinating the use of housing choice vouchers with public and private resources to help eligible families achieve economic independence.

HOUSE

From Page 1

Rep. Diego Benavente said the House has to come up with a solution to the Fund's problem. "I'm willing to vote in favor of this initiative because I am too concerned about the welfare of pension retirees that rely on this," he said.

Floor Leader Camacho disagreed that the initiative in its present form will solve the Retirement Fund problem.

"If you have car payments and you're behind on your car payments and you are delinquent with those car payments and then you go to the bank and borrow a second loan just to catch up with your car payments, you think you solve the problem? The problem here is you now have two loans to pay," Camacho said.

Rep. Heinz Hofschneider stressed that the initiative "is a remedy, not the remedy."

Hofschneider said lawmakers should not lose sight of the nature of legislative initiatives—the final say is not the lawmakers but the people. He said the vehicle to get it to the people is in a legislative form or popular initiative.

"Every single one of us has that responsibility. Whether you are for or against it, exhaustively articulate that to the public. [Tell] them about the good side and the bad side," Hofschneider said.

Vice Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero said Sablan, who opposed the initiative, has every right to introduce a bill to increase taxes at any point in her term.

"But why close the door on this option? Because you would like to

do it, propose another option. By all means do it and you can," Deleon Guerrero said. "I think all of us here know how critical our retirement pension is. Everyday we continue to lose. Let us not close the door on this potential route."

Sablan said she wants House members to consider the initiative as an idea and not a plan. "At this point, there is no cost benefit analysis," she said.

She said there was no report or study made to justify the borrowing or how the reduction in government personnel will take place to pay the debt.

Citing the government's many obligations, Sablan the solution is not to ask the public to authorize more debts.

"I don't see the logic in that. Not having had a public hearing on this initiative, I'm not sure how the public will see the logic in this," Sablan said.

In response to the vice speaker's comment, Sablan said no one states that more legislation or more debts is the solution to the Fund's problem. "I think it was earlier said during recess that we should pay what we owe. Start with that! That would be one solution," she said.

Furthermore, Sablan said, she noticed in yesterday's communication with the Fund that the House is asking members of the Legislature to assign negotiators to meet with the Fund and work on a payment plan for the \$231.6 million in damages owed the Fund.

"Start with that! They [Fund] have ideas. We could sell assets [or] introduce legislation to raise taxes," she said. "I ask members to seriously reconsider your vote in support of this legislation. I think this really needs more thought and need a minimum

of public hearing."

Rep. Salas told *Saipan Tribune* that, if people vote to allow the government to borrow \$200 million to pay its debt to the Fund, who will shoulder the repayment of the obligation bond?

"Obviously, the answer will be the taxpayers from both the private and the public sector. And whose debt is it? It is the debt of the government for failing for many years and continues to fail to remit its employer contribution to the Retirement Fund," Salas said.

"Is it really fair for people in the private workforce to have to pay for the failure of the government to honor a mandate to remit its employer obligation?" he asked.

The \$200 million that is being proposed to be borrowed, Salas said, is to satisfy a public debt that the private sector workforce is not a party of.



Deleon Guerrero

OPA willing to look into housing benefits abuse if...

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Public Auditor Michael Pai said yesterday his office is willing to look into allegations that some government employees are receiving housing benefits contrary to law if the Attorney General will issue an opinion on the legality of the benefits.

Pai told Rep. Rey Yumul, chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, that OPA is going to entertain a request for audit as soon as he receives guidance on the legal effects of Public Law 14-91 on excepted service employees and housing benefits.

In a letter to Yumul, Pai suggested that the Ways and Means Committee seek an advisory opinion from the Attorney General on the legality of continuing housing benefits for categories of employees covered by the re-

quest for audit.

Public Law 14-91 established a sunset provision, repealing housing benefits or allowance of \$600 per month for an employee without dependents or \$800 per month for an employee with dependents. The provision stated that regulation in effect on Aug. 1, 2005, should remain in effect for more than two years.

Yumul informed the House about OPA's communication during yesterday's session.

In March, Yumul asked OPA to look into concerns that certain off island hires, specifically expatriates, are being given housing benefits.

The lawmaker said all new government contracts after Oct. 1, 2007, should not have included housing benefits, but that he received information that many contracts executed after Oct. 1, 2007, still included the benefit.

He said it is not fair for resident employees in similar positions that do not receive housing benefits for their off-island hire counterparts to get

housing benefits.

In response to the lawmaker's concern, Pai said that Yumul's request appears to not only seek an audit, but also a legal opinion

on whether payouts of housing benefits to off-island hire excepted service employees is allowable under the current Commonwealth statutory and regulatory landscape.

"While OPA is charged with authority to conduct audits and

investigations that fall within our constitutional and statutory mandates, we will defer the advisory legal opinions of the Office of the Attorney General with respect to the legality of such continuing housing benefit payouts," Pai said.

5 PATH for Women scholarships available

Saipan Municipal Council chairwoman Antonio Tudela announced yesterday the availability of five slots for this year's Reach Us-Promoting Access to Health for Pacific Islander and Southeast Asian Women scholarship fund for Pacific Islander students.

Reach Us PATH for Women is a breast and cervical cancer program working to address disparities among Asian and Pacific Islander communities.

The scholarship is offered to

high school seniors and undergraduate college students who demonstrate significant merit in academics, workplace and community with an interest in the health field.

Five students will be selected to receive \$1,000 scholarship to offset their expenses at a two- or four-year accredited institution for the 2009-2010 school year.

Applicants must be of Pacific

Islander descent and must reside in Orange County, Los Angeles County, or San Diego County or attending a college or university in one of these counties.

Pacific Islander descendants include Chamorro/Guamanian, Chuukese, Marshallese, Palauan or other Micronesians, Fijian, Solomon Islander, Vanuatu or other Melanesians, Native Hawaiian,



Tudela

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2

1

9

Our reality in Rota; we need positive and progressive Changes and Change we must! I pledge to you, my independence, my ability to think positively, innovative approach to problem-solving and my undying desire to help make a difference for the people of Rota! These, my fellow voters are the basic foundations which move, motivate and push me to seek your vote of confidence for a seat in the 13th Municipal Council for Rota.

13th Rota Municipal Council

\$1.5M road construction project starts on Tinian

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Construction work began yesterday on the \$1.5 million Route 201 highway on Tinian, according to Department of Public Works Secretary Diego Songsong.

In a press briefing, Songsong said the road—about 1.5 mile long from the port to the villages—would boost the economy of Tinian, especially the village of San Jose, where government offices are located.

Aside from tourists, he said the road could also be used by the U.S. military to transport equipment and other supplies once it starts buildup activities in the Marianas.

The project is federally funded, with a contract value of \$1.38 million. GPPC Inc. is the project contractor. The con-



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

struction management fund is approximately \$193,000.

The asphalt pavement will be a two-lane roadway with shoulders on both sides, including sidewalks.

temporary liberty but Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman allowed him to post \$100 or 10 percent of the bail in cash and the remaining \$900 in unsecured bond.

Assistant public defender Matthew Holley represented Bhuiyan in court while assistant attorney general George Hasselback appeared on behalf of the government.

If Bhuiyan posts bail, Wiseman said the defendant must return to court whenever required to do so, obey all Commonwealth laws, not leave Saipan without court permission, stay away from all seaports and airports, and have no direct or indirect contact with the alleged victim.

Wiseman set the preliminary hearing to July 20 and arraignment to July 27.

Bhuiyan said during the bail hearing yesterday that he has been on Saipan for 12 years now.

mediately surrendered the vehicle after police informed him that the sale was illegal.

The car is now temporarily secured at DPS.

Upon further investigation, Guerrero said that Bhuiyan admitted selling the vehicle to Hossain last April 22.

Guerrero's report stated that no legal transaction could be found for the sale of the car to Miah but it was clear that Bhuiyan deceived Hossain by selling the same car.

Hossain told police that he already spent \$700 to replace the car's front windshield.

Miah got back the car but Bhuiyan had been eluding Hossain, who wants his money back.

Guerrero said Bhuiyan has been attempting to go home to Bangladesh.

During a bail hearing, the Superior Court ordered Bhuiyan to post a \$1,000 bail for his

year class reunion will be discussed and decided. Dips & chips and BYOB. Call Irene at 288-2596 or Joe Kaipat at 664-8509 between 8am to 3pm for details. (PR)

Reporters

A guest worker was charged yesterday with theft by deception after he allegedly sold a car twice to two of his fellow nationals.

Police said that Alam Bhuiyan, a Bangladeshi national, first sold the 2005 model silver Toyota Corolla sedan to Mohammed J. Miah, then borrowed the car and sold it again to Awlad Hossain.

In his report, DPS detective Christopher Leon Guerrero said that Bhuiyan sold the vehicle to Miah on May 27, 2008. A couple of months ago, Bhuiyan borrowed the car from Miah.

Guerrero said that Miah then learned that his vehicle was sold to Hossain for \$5,200.

Investigation conducted by the Bureau of Motor Vehicle showed that the car was in fact registered to Miah. Hossain im-

NMC English and Math placement test schedule

The Northern Marianas College will be conducting English placement tests on the following dates:

- Aug. 3 1pm - 4pm D-1
- Aug. 5 5pm - 8pm D-1
- Aug. 6 1pm - 4pm D-1
- Aug. 13 5pm - 8pm D-1
- Aug. 14 9am - 12pm D-1
- Aug. 21 9am - 12pm A-5

NMC math placement tests will be conducted on the following dates:

- Aug. 4 10am - 12pm D-1
- 5pm - 7pm D-1
- Aug. 6 10am - 12pm D-1
- 5pm - 7pm D-1
- Aug. 11 10am - 12pm D-1
- 5pm - 7pm D-1
- Aug. 13 10am - 12pm D-1

Those who wish to take courses at NMC must take the placement tests. Registration for NMC's Fall 2009 semester will begin on Aug. 17 and end on Aug. 21.

Those who wish to take a test must bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils. No admittance to the testing room will be allowed after the starting time. Calculators may be used when taking the math placement test.

There is a \$25 fee each placement test that must

CONTACT INFO

English Placement Test

Mark Haag at the Languages & Humanities Department
Tel: (670) 234-5498 Ext. 2017
Mona Camacho, Ext. 1242.

Math Placement Test

Sciences, Mathematics, Health & Athletics Department
Tel: 234-5498 Ext. 1200 or 1210
Web site: <http://www.nmcnet.edu/>

be paid in advance at the NMC Cashier (Monday - Friday, 9am - 4pm). No one will be allowed into the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for the placement test fee, or the NMC application fee). Payment for the application fee will cover the English placement test fee.

If you have any questions about the English placement test, call Mark Haag at the Languages & Humanities Department at (670) 234-5498 Ext. 2017 or Mona Camacho at Ext. 1242.

If you have any questions about the math placement test, call the Sciences, Mathematics, Health & Athletics Department at 234-5498 Ext. 1200 or 1210.

For additional information about the placement tests and registration for the Fall 2009 semester, log on to <http://www.nmcnet.edu/>. (NMC)

"This has been pushed by the Municipality of Tinian for the past several years. Now it is moving forward," said Songsong.

The DPW chief, along with Technical and Supplies Division director Joseph M. Inos Jr., Highway manager Nono Bostre and DPW Solid Waste technical advisor Steve Hiney, also gave an update on several government projects.

They said the ongoing Route 202 road project on Tinian is expected to end this month.

This Wednesday, bidding will begin for Phase 1 of the Marianas Highway widening project from Asin Fish Market to Blue Tank on Saipan.

Songsong said this is the major highway project stretching along main roads in San Vicente to Dandan and Kagman.

The seven-mile long project will involve four phases.

Phase 1 would be cost about \$9.2 million, including the management and design. It will be the longest and most expensive because of the widening and uphill components.

Another project is Route 36 from the Kingfisher to Bird Island. DPW is still advertising for the engineering and design for this project.

On Rota, the notice-to-proceed will be issued before the end of this month for the \$2.7 million Route 11 road project called the Sabana Road.

Hiney also gave an update of the Puerto Rico dump site project, saying they have scheduled the open bid on July 24. By Aug. 6, they expect to sign the contract for the \$11.3 million project to rehabilitate the dumpsite.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

USS *Albuquerque* arrives on Saipan

The USS *Albuquerque*, a 362-foot Los Angeles-class submarine with approximately 130 officers and crew, arrived yesterday morning on its first-ever visit to the Commonwealth. The Chamber was represented at the arrival briefing, and will jointly host a welcome reception with VFW Post 3457 at the VFW on Wednesday, July 15, at 6pm. Please help us continue to build our reputation as the preferred MWR (Morale, Welfare, and Recreation) destination in the Asia-Pacific Region by warmly welcoming these sailors to our islands. The *Albuquerque* is scheduled to depart Friday. (SCC)

Attention to MHS Class of 1979

The first official 1979 class reunion meeting will be held this Friday, July 17, at Irene Takai Camacho's Dandan house at 6pm. Preparation for the 30th

year class reunion will be discussed and decided. Dips & chips and BYOB. Call Irene at 288-2596 or Joe Kaipat at 664-8509 between 8am to 3pm for details. (PR)

Biesel to take over Joint Region Marianas

SANTA RITA, Guam—Rear Adm. Douglass Biesel will assume command as commander, Joint Region Marianas; U.S. Defense Representative, Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau; and commander, U.S. Naval Forces Marianas from Rear Adm. Bill French during a change of command ceremony.

The ceremony is scheduled for 10am, July 16, at the Guam High School gym on board U.S. Naval Hospital Guam compound in Agana Heights. Vice Adm. Michael Vitale, Commander, Navy Installa-

tions Command, will be the guest speaker.

Biesel is reporting to Guam after recently serving as commander, Navy Region Midwest, based in Great Lakes, Ill. The next assignment for French will be Commander, Navy Region Southwest in San Diego. (USN)

Navy holds training on Farallon de Medinilla

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Navy will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla today, July 14, from 7am to 9pm.

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Medinilla Training Area on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. The public, especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from this area during the time and date indicated. (USN)



SWEARING IN

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial swears in Benigno M. Sablan and Margarita T. Prater to serve as members of the Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors representing Saipan on Friday, July 10, 2009. The two CPA board members were confirmed by the Senate on July 1. This is their second term with the CPA board.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Island Snapshots



COVENANT PARTY RALLY

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos join Covenant Party candidates and officials on stage in singing the CNMI's national anthem during Sunday's mid-term rally held at the Civic Center in Susupe.

FERDIE DELA TORRE



FERDIE DELA TORRE

Covenant Party senatorial candidate Cinta Kaipat and her nephew wave to passersby.



FERDIE DELA TORRE

Gov. Benigno Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos have their lunch as former Lt. Gov. Froilan Tenorio looks on.



Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio assists Gov. Benigno R. Fitial in crossing Beach Road for the Covenant Party's waving to motorists.

FERDIE DELA TORRE



Former Gov. Froilan Tenorio and his wife raise the Covenant Party's flags during a roadside waving. Tenorio is seeking one of the House's seats for Precinct 1.

FERDIE DELA TORRE



Re-electionist Rep. Raymond D. Palacios waves to *Saipan Tribune* during the roadside waving.

FERDIE DELA TORRE



Supporters fill up many picnic tables for free food and drinks.

FERDIE DELA TORRE

Nine finish parental reading course



The first group role-plays the characters of the storybook *Wings: A Tale of Two Chickens* by James Marshall on June 18, 2009, at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

Two groups of participants recently completed the Motheread adult course at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, capping the event with the traditional presentation and demonstration of reading techniques learned at the end of each course.

This is an activity that participants energetically discussed and agreed to do beforehand. Storybooks used in their closing presentations were books that made an impression on them during Motheread course session discussions. There's always a sense of reluctance from the participants in bringing to an end a Motheread adult course session. After eight sessions, participants develop a family-like relationship not easily discarded by course session closure.

Last June 18, 2009, the first group composed of six participants role-played the characters of the storybook *Wings: A Tale of Two Chickens* by James Marshall. A fun-filled story of two chickens that are the best of friends, sensible Harriet and gullible Winnie are very different from each other. The storybook teaches children about friendship, how to solve problems, being deceived by



Motheread adult course participants Camille Samonte, Mona Kapileo, Rebecca E. Urbano, Jo-ann Cruzana, Honorato Galvan, and Adorada Galvan pose with their children after being awarded certificates of completion on June 18, 2009, at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.



The second group of adult participants had a closing presentation on July 7 at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library as part of the certificate awarding ceremony.

appearances, and making choices.

The audience and the participants truly enjoyed their presentation that night at the public library. Participants for this cycle were Camille Samonte, Mona Kapileo, Rebecca E. Urbano, Jo-ann Cruzana, Honorato Galvan, and Adorada Galvan. Participants were given a chance to speak about the merits and advantages of the Motheread adult course session.

Motheread certified trainer Maryjane Limes and program coordinator Viola Deleon Guerrero lauded the parents' participa-

tion and active involvement in the program. They also emphasized the need for community and parental support for the continuing success of the program.

The second group of adult participants also did a closing presentation on July 7 at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library as part of the certificate awarding ceremony. This time the participants were supplemented by the participation of the Motheread trainers. Together they gave life to the storybook *Uncle Nacho's Hat* by Harriet Rohmer. The humorous bilingual story is

about Uncle Nacho and his worn-out hat. He repeatedly tries to get rid of his old hat for a new hat that his niece had given him. But it always had a way of being returned to him. Feeling tired and frustrated he listened to the advice of his niece to stop worrying about his old hat and to start enjoying his new hat. The story is also about accepting yourself and others, and knowing how to let go.

Participants' children, spouses, guests, and Americorps volunteers watched the highly spirited presentation with merriment.

CONTACT INFO

CNMI Motheread/Fatheread Program
Tel: 235-7319, 285-1268
E-mail: cnnimotheread@gmail.com

ment. The short ceremony concluded with the awarding of certificates of completion to the participants: Celina C. Foreman, Ana C. Castro, and Edrelina M. Beceril.

The Motheread Program is a nationally acclaimed family literacy program that combines the teaching of literacy skills with child development and family empowerment issues.

The CNMI Motheread/Fatheread Program is a literacy program sponsored by the NMI Council for the Humanities, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, Public School System, and other sponsors. For more information contact: 235-7319, 285-1268 or e-mail cnnimotheread@gmail.com. (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 14, 1999

OPA clears way for new RFP

By quashing a local corporation's attempt to stop a new bidding, the Office of the Public Auditor yesterday paved the way for the Board of Public Lands to push through with its solicitation of new proposals for the grant of a concession to operate Managaha Island. OPA denied an appeal by the Marianas Marine Management Inc. (MMM), which had attempted to stop the land board from seeking a new request for proposals on grounds that it violated the CNMI's procurement regulations. MMM, whose board members include key political supporters of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, had wanted the board to proceed with the selection of a concessionaire based on bids submitted in August last year.

CDC rules out Japanese encephalitis

After all the hysteria in connection with Japanese encephalitis, the U.S.-based Center for Disease Control has ruled that the death of the four-year old local girl a month ago has nothing to do with the deadly virus. Another test conducted on a girl who was suspected of having the disease also yielded negative results, according to Department of Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez. The girl has already recovered from her sickness and has long been discharged from the hospital. CDC has yet to provide the results of the test conducted on animals such as ducks and pigs found in the area, where the family of the deceased lives to find out if these have become hosts of the deadly virus.

July 14, 2000

'Arrest Cabrera'

Former Finance Secretary Antonio R. Cabrera finds himself in hot water again—this time with the federal government. U.S. District Judge Alex R. Munson yesterday issued a warrant for his arrest after the ex-government official was indicted on five counts of embezzlement and bribery. He set his bail at \$200,000. As of yesterday afternoon, it was not known whether the U.S. Marshal's Office had taken Cabrera, 40, into custody. The former finance chief also could not be reached for comment on the charges. Based on the indictment filed by the U.S. Attorney's Office, Cabrera was accused of embezzling, stealing or obtaining by fraud over \$56,000 from programs receiving federal funds while he was the finance chief during the administration of former Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio.

Babauta: Hire lobbyists in Washington

Warning of impending doom for the CNMI's fragile economy, acting Speaker Oscar M. Babauta yesterday appealed for joint efforts of the government and the private sector to thwart attempts to deprive the islands of trade privileges under the Covenant. At the same time, he said he will sponsor a joint House-Senate resolution that will urge Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio to consider engaging a lobbying or public relations firm that will defend local interests in Washington D.C. That resolution is expected to be passed today during a special House session, according to its proponent.

July 14, 2003

Tourism turnaround seen

The SARS-triggered travel scare that impacted outbound travel from the CNMI's major tourism market is projected to abate now that the viral spread has been controlled worldwide, perking up travel demand. The Marianas Visitors Authority remains extra positive that Japanese arrivals in the Commonwealth would tremendously rebound this summer and even reach record-setting statistics by fall, even as total visitor entry to the islands last June went down to its lowest this fiscal year. "With the end of SARS in sight, and with huge pent-up demand developed over the past several months, overseas travel from Japan is showing signs of a huge rebound this summer, with travel potentially reaching historic high levels by fall," the MVA stated in a report.

Classroom overcrowding remains a problem

Despite the opening of four new schools last year, the Public School System continues to experience shortage in facilities including classrooms, particularly in the elementary level. Prime examples of this are the Garapan and Kagman elementary schools. GES was built to accommodate only about 750 students but its student population has now reached over 900, making it the most crowded elementary school. Kagman Elementary School has recorded over 800 students, which is above the projected 400 to 500 students that could be accommodated.

Spotlight shines on Palau's Uighurs-accepting leader

By JOHN M. GLIONNA
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

KOROR, Palau—When asked by the United States to accept a group of hard-to-place inmates from the U.S. detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Palauan President Johnson Toribiong mulled the request as both a head of state and a criminal-defense lawyer.

The 62-year-old politician says he considered the plight of 13 Chinese men like he would have countless other defendants during two decades as one of this tiny Pacific island's top litigators.

The men, ethnic Uighurs, had gotten a raw deal, he said, jailed for years without trial. Now they were not considered dangerous terrorists after all. No country had been found willing to take the Chinese Muslims—before Palau.

"These people are not monsters," said Toribiong who, with graying hair and glasses, looks pensive, even professorial. "They should be presumed innocent, because no one has proven them guilty."

The last two weeks have been tsunami-like for Toribiong.

Barely 120 days in office as leader of the isolated island republic of 20,000 citizens—a job not unlike being mayor of a small town—he's now in the international diplomatic spotlight.

By offering the detainees refuge, Toribiong, like the leader of any other potential host, runs the risk of offending Beijing, which has demanded the men be returned to China to be tried as political criminals on charges of insurgency.

He also has angered some islanders who say he's bringing trouble to their piece of paradise. But Toribiong waves off his critics.

By JOHN M. GLIONNA
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

KOROR, Palau—Sipping guava juice under cover from a steamy tropical downpour, Tommy Remengesau Jr. says he's always considered his Pacific island home a refuge from the troubles of the outside world.

"While the rest of the planet was in conflict, waging its wars, we remained a little piece of paradise," the former Palauan president said as his pet fruit bat swayed upside down in a nearby cage. "Now the world's headaches have come home to roost in Palau."

This isolated republic of more than 300 scattered islands, set amid a vast stretch of aquamarine ocean 4,500 miles southwest of Hawaii, had its reverie rocked last week when officials here announced they would accept several Chinese Muslims held at Guantanamo Bay.

Palau's decision to offer refuge to more than a dozen ethnic Uighurs once suspected as terrorists was hailed by the Obama administration, which is eager to disperse Guantanamo detainees as part of a plan to close the notorious prison early next year.

But the "humanitarian gesture" by Palauan President Johnson Toribiong has rattled cocktail glasses and scuba tanks across this former U.S. territory whose economy is heavily dependent on eco-tourism.

With its sparkling waters, world-class diving and small-town charm, lush Palau is about as far away as you can get from the forced confines of a Guantanamo prison cell.

The republic is one of the world's smallest nations, a little more than twice the size of Washington, D.C., with only 20,000 people. Gaining its independence in 1994 from a U.N. trusteeship, it also ranks among the newest—behind East Timor.

As a former U.S. territory, Palau must come to America's aid, he says. And Palauan culture has long embraced castaways and drifters who wash up on its shores.

Friends are not surprised at Toribiong's sense of calm amid the crisis.

"He believes in giving people a second chance," said Johnny Gibbons, a grade-school friend of Toribiong's who now serves as Palau's justice minister. "Often appointed by the court, he defended drug dealers and murderers, people with no resources."

"He didn't judge them. He defended them."

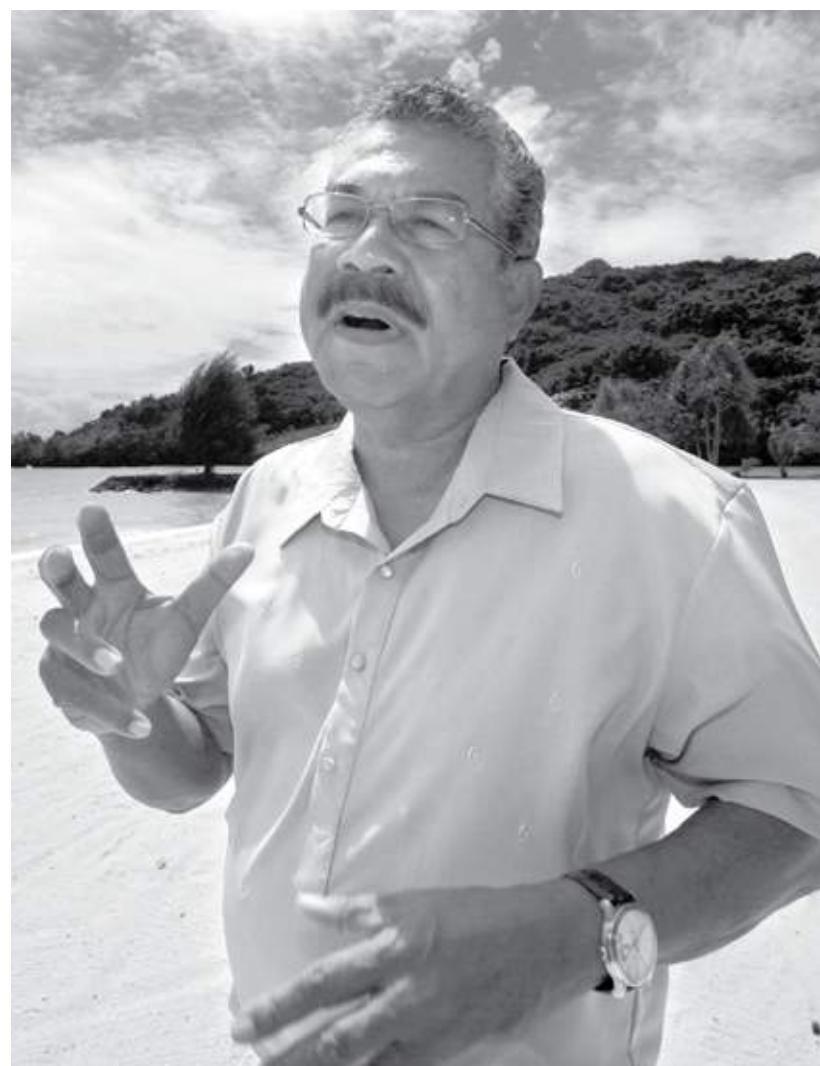
The son of a Seventh-day Adventist minister, Toribiong was born in 1946 after the United States had freed Palau from Japanese rule in World War II. Like many newborns of the day, he was given an American-style first name.

Toribiong was raised by his grandmother, and an early mentor was his step-grandfather, a village chief he recalls as a "historian, magician and medicine man."

"His step-grandfather taught him integrity," said Raphael Ngirman, one of Palau's top tribal chiefs, his lips reddened from chewing beetle nut. "Johnson was quiet and considered, even as a boy. But his friends and elders respected that style."

Always fascinated with America, Toribiong received a scholarship to attend college in Colorado and earned his law degree at Washington State.

He returned to Palau to start a career as a public servant, defense lawyer and later a part-time judge. He was appointed chief of his boyhood village, an honor in a culture where rural areas are governed by tribal chiefs named by



you represent someone you know is guilty," Ngirman recalled. "He didn't flinch. He said he did the best job he could, no matter what crime his client was accused of."

Toribiong won a close battle to become Palauan president last November, spending election day checking on polling places, roaming the same jungle villages where he had played as a boy.

He had barely begun his new job when America came calling.

In early June, Toribiong received a call from Mark Bezner, chargé d'affaires of the U.S. Embassy here, who wanted to discuss a proposal to resettle in Palau as many as 17 imprisoned Uighurs.

Toribiong quickly met with a delegation of U.S. officials, including Daniel Fried, the Obama administration's special envoy for the Guantanamo closure and Navy Rear Admiral William D. French.

"We were open about our political problems resettling the Uighurs," Bezner said. "He looked at this as an opportunity to help the U.S., which was refreshing."

Before accepting, Toribiong said he consulted with elected officials and village chiefs, who told him that offering such hospitality was the Palauan way.

"It wasn't a hard decision," he said. "There were only a few questions: Is it the right thing to do? Is it just? And will it benefit Palau in the long run?"

"For me, the answers were all a resounding yes. Maybe I'm naive, but I thought, 'These are human beings. It's only a few people. We can handle this.' We decided to treat them as temporary settlers looking for a permanent settlement."

In this June 13, 2009 file photo, Palau President Johnson Toribiong talks with a reporter during an interview in Ngerkebesang, Palau.

female elders.

For a time, he was president of the island's baseball federation. "I call him a baseball coach," said Toribiong's younger brother Joel, a Palauan senator. "He's a thinker. He sits on the

bench forever to ponder things before he puts his lineup together."

But Johnson Toribiong made his name as a defense lawyer.

"One time when he had taken on a big case, I asked him, 'How can

Ahead of Uighurs' arrival, Palau bebates

Its capital and cultural center, Koror, is so low-key that its only two stoplights were switched off because people felt they just weren't needed. It's a throwback world where chickens and stray dogs run free along the nation's 100 miles of paved roads.

Some say island lore includes the age-old habit of nourishing the human driftwood that washes up here. Others aren't so sure.

If the U.S. no longer considers the Uighurs a threat, why doesn't it take them, they ask? Why dump them on some far-flung island republic with a tight-knit, everyone-knows-his-neighbor culture that could soon make them feel as though they were right back in prison?

As she scrubbed floor mats at a community car wash Saturday, Chandis Cooper said that even if Toribiong is her uncle, she thinks he's flat-out wrong to bring the Uighurs to Palau.

"Those men could get lost in the U.S. if they wanted—the nation is that big. But here on Palau, there's nowhere for them to go," she said. "Our police department has a hard enough time chasing down kids out past curfew—what are they going to do with a bunch of Guantanamo inmates?"

"I think the president just wants to make America happy."

The U.S. achieved hero status here after American forces fought and died to free Palau from Japanese rule in World War II. For decades afterward, Palau was a U.N. Trust Territory administered by U.S. officials.

Its citizens still celebrate American Independence Day. They use their old U.S. ZIP code (96940), and the island currency remains the greenback. Most Palauans speak English along with their native tongue.

But all this America worship has become un-

healthy, critics say, pointing to a compact with the U.S. that Palau signed before its independence; they insist it left an unhealthy economic reliance on Uncle Sam.

Under the pact, Washington agreed to give Palau \$20 million annually. In recent months, both sides have worked on a new aid package that could exceed \$200 million—by some estimates more than Palau's gross domestic product of \$157 million. The per capita income here is less than \$10,000 a year.

U.S. State Department officials insist the aid is not tied to Palau's agreement to accept Guantanamo detainees.

In an interview Saturday, Toribiong said no amount of aid or diplomatic arm-twisting could have influenced his decision to accept the inmates.

"This wasn't an obligation; it was an honor," Toribiong said as he drank a bottle of Perrier a few feet from the crashing surf. "We're showing that we're a partner to the U.S. in good times and in bad."

"Palau can enter the world stage as a little guy helping a big guy, a tiny island republic going to bat for a world superpower."

Toribiong said he initially agreed to accept 17 Uighurs but later learned that the U.S. had unexpectedly sent four to Bermuda. He now expects 13 detainees to arrive soon.

Once here, they will be put in a halfway house until homes and jobs are found for them—the funds for their relocation will be covered by the U.S., Toribiong said.

He insisted that the arrangement is temporary and will be periodically reviewed.

The people of Palau weren't waiting to review the arrangement.

At a gas station in downtown Koror, a dozen residents—including mechanics and former senators—sat around white plastic tables drinking coffee and hashing out the island's problems.

Most often the banter revolves around the occasional marijuana bust, string of burglaries or illegal offshore shark killings.

But recently the men have dissected the fate of the Uighur separatists from the Chinese province of Xinjiang, a rugged landscape of snowy mountains and sweltering deserts so foreign to Micronesia that it sent many residents scrambling for a map.

Amid their fight for independence from China, the Uighurs now headed for Palau were captured and sent to Guantanamo in 2001 after traveling to Pakistan and Afghanistan for firearms training.

"My question is where are we going to put these people? Are we going to let them roam around? Are we going to put them in jail?" asked Evans Beches, a former island politician. "And where was the referendum on this? Don't people have a right to debate something so important to the future of this island?"

Staring into his coffee cup, Roman Yano saw things differently.

"Taking people like this is in our culture. Whether you're good or bad, if you end up on this island, we will take care of you," the former senator said. "It's part of this island's history."

And the Chinese nationals could well influence this island culture, with its strong oral tradition featuring tales of tortoises, spiders and mermaids—often captured on carved wooden storyboards sold in tourist shops.

"Who knows?" shoptender Priska Ngirachiong said. "Maybe some artist will do a storyboard on these Chinese people. That way, they'll really become part of our culture."

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Now the Uighurs

If the reports of deadly riots and repression in a far-off region of China sounded familiar last week, it's because you have heard them—or something much like them—before. The uprising by ethnic Uighurs in the city of Urumqi in Xinjiang province was the third such popular protest by Uighurs in the past 20 years, and it looked a lot like the trouble that broke out last year in Tibet. What began as a peaceful protest by an aggrieved minority turned to rioting after police responded harshly. Then followed a brutal crackdown by security forces, accompanied by revenge attacks by members of China's Han majority.

As always, Chinese authorities have been unsparing in the force used to silence the protests. As always, they are blocking communications from the region (though some Western journalists were allowed to travel to Urumqi) and fomenting Han nationalism with xenophobic diatribes in the state-controlled media. Once again an exiled leader is blamed, without evidence, for fomenting "terrorism"—in this case Rebiya Kadeer, the World Uighur Congress leader, who lives in Fairfax County, Va. And—as always—China is doing and promising nothing to remedy the underlying cause of the unrest, which is its treatment of both Tibet and Xinjiang as if they were colonies, populated by captive nations.

One reason China's Communist leadership rejected the political reforms undertaken by the Soviet Union in the 1980s is a fear that Xinjiang would follow the path of neighboring Soviet Central Asian republics—some of them also populated by Turkic ethnic groups—that became independent nations. But Beijing is simply repeating all of the mistakes of the Soviet Union and other colonialist powers. It has systematically suppressed Uighur culture and language; practice of the Muslim religion is also tightly controlled. Millions of Han Chinese have moved to the province over the last half century, turning the 8 million Uighurs into a minority in their own land. As in Tibet, Han Chinese hold a privileged economic position in the cities, while Uighurs are regarded and often treated as an inferior race.

The United States and other Western countries have tried for years, in vain, to persuade Chinese leaders to change policy in Tibet. Unlike the Dalai Lama, Uighurs get little love in Paris or Hollywood; mostly they are known for the alleged militants held at the Guantanamo Bay prison, who have been found to pose no threat but who (with four recent exceptions) have not been released, for lack of a place to send them. But this minority, too, deserves support. The brutal suppression of the Uighurs' legitimate demands for justice will not make them go away; it will only weaken China's ability to hold on to the territory in the long term.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post



Fixing the economy? It's women's work

By KATTY KAY and CLAIRE SHIPMAN
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—While the pinstripe crowd fixates on troubled assets, a stalled stimulus and mortgage remedies, it turns out that a more sure-fire financial fix is within our grasp—and has been for years. New research says a healthy dose of estrogen may be the key not only to our fiscal recovery, but also to economic strength worldwide.

The sexy new discussion in policy circles around the world, thanks to the recession, is whether a significant shift of power from men to women is underway—or whether it should be. Accounting giant Ernst & Young pulled out charts and graphs at a recent power lunch in Washington with female lawmakers to argue a provocative bottom line: Companies with more women in senior management roles make more money. The latest issue of Foreign Policy magazine sweepingly predicts the "death of macho." Economists at Davos this year speculated that the presence of more women on Wall Street might have averted the downturn. Adding to this debate is the fact that the laid-off victims of this recession are overwhelmingly men.

All those right-brain skills disparaged as soft in the roaring '90s are suddenly 21st-century-hot, while cocky is experiencing a slow fizz.

The numbers make a compelling case. The studies Ernst & Young rounded up show that women can make the difference between economic success and failure in the developing world, between good and bad decision-making in the industrialized world, and between profit and loss in the corporate world. Their conclusion: American companies would do well with more senior women.

And it's not only one study, but at least half a dozen, from a broad spectrum of organizations such as Columbia University, McKinsey & Co., Goldman Sachs and Pepperdine University, that document a clear relationship between women in senior management and corporate financial success. By all measures, more women in your company means better performance.

WOMEN IN THE MIX

(c) 2009, The Washington Post

In Hedge Funds

Average annual returns from 2000 to the present:

- 9.06 percent for women-owned funds
- 5.82 percent for broader composite index

In the boardroom

Return on equity for Fortune 500 firms:

- 13.9 percent for those with highest representation of women on their corporate boards
- 9.1 percent for those with lowest representation of women on their corporate boards

Sources: Hedge Fund Research Inc., Catalyst

and professional money managers used more measured strategies. They didn't take huge risks, but they also didn't lose big. Their returns were consistent. Men took larger risks and wound up with results that varied more widely. A study by the French Fund association found that funds managed by women had more consistent results over one-year, three-year and five-year measurements. Female-managed funds weren't usually top performers, but they were never at the bottom.

Whatever the future, we hardly need to explain why, after all the trouble the testosterone-infused Wall Street culture brought us, a bit of that caution would be a healthy ingredient in our financial mix.

If that all seems too touchy-feely for left-brainers, here's more

See **FIXING** on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Word of advice to Fund members a la Yogi Berra: It ain't over 'til it's over

If you are a member of the Retirement Fund's defined benefit plan and are either still working or currently retired who followed the Fund's lawsuit against the central government, you may be aware of the judgment issued in favor of the Fund members by Judge Govendo on June 29 (Civil Action #06-0367).

As mentioned in his judgment for damages, this prominent and competent jurist made a point that is certain to have startled and dismayed many retirees with a cold hard fact and that being that a court judgment is one thing; trying to get a recalcitrant local government to comply and pay up—if history provides an example—is quite another kettle of fish.

Indeed, the possibility still exists for nonpayment to the Retirement Fund by a government that has been woefully negligent and deficient for many years in its legal and contractual obligation to Fund members. Let me be clear: The court decision was not an award since funds can't be awarded which are already owed. What the court did was confirm the debt owed by the government.

As Judge Govendo mentioned in his evaluation of the central government's responsibility for meeting its financial obligation to the Fund ("Judgment for Damages and Order Thereon"), he cites 1CMC, section 7207 which "controls what funds may be disbursed to satisfy court judgments. Except for funds appropriated for settlements and awards, no court may require the disbursement of funds from the Commonwealth Treasury or order the reprogramming of funds in order to provide for such disbursement. Any final judgment of a court shall be paid only pursuant to an item of appropriations for settlement and awards."

And there, dear Fund members, you have it—or maybe you don't have it depending upon your point of view and power of reasoning! This is a serious "bread and butter" issue irate retirees can wrap their pension checks around at election time. Vote for those who will repeal this law.

This is the type of an exploitative, unjust law one could expect to encounter in a Banana Republic, not a U.S. Commonwealth. Indeed, this law would even be an embarrassment to an underdeveloped country.

If you doubt that a court judgment can't be honored in the Commonwealth and summarily ignored, ask Mr. Tony Pellegrino how

the system works to the advantage of the government but doesn't always work for taxpaying plaintiffs in a timely manner. Ask him about his lack of success so far in trying to collect on a court judgment, which has ballooned from \$5.65 million in 2005 to \$8.2 million as interest continues to mount.

It would appear that the government doesn't care how much it owes or for how long. How's that for an example of the value of a court judgment rendered against a government loath to pay its debt obligations? Indeed, one NMI senator was recently quoted in the press that the Legislature's budgeting process does not appropriate money for the payment of debts. Can you imagine such disregard!

Once again the possibility exists for an "anti-retiree legislative and administrative cabal" to work to continue to restrict efforts to meet the government's financial obligation, not only to the Fund members but also to the court as well. And remember it is always possible for the government to appeal Judge Govendo's decision to the Supreme Court with the goal of attempting to overturn the decision. Or if the Govendo decision is upheld, years could pass before the issue is settled. Meanwhile, no money flows to the Fund from internal sources and pensions dry up in a few years.

With that bleak possibility on the horizon, Fund members should ask themselves why the government would want to continue to delay payment to the Fund what is rightfully due and fully documented by a court of law? How can one branch of a government (the executive) dominate another independent branch (the judiciary) with impunity? Is this the essence of self-government in the Commonwealth?

I doubt if Mr. Pellegrino will ever collect what is due in full. Rather, he will probably be offered a settlement of much less than the court awarded.

I'll bet the same thing will happen within the government's "settlement negotiations" with the Fund now being scheduled where Fund members may eventually learn of efforts to compromise on 25 or 50 cents on the dollar! And then only after the fact when the "deal is done" will retirees understand the process, not unlike a splash of cold water in the face, that there will be no further recourse for the retirees to correct any injustice done the Fund members as a result of their government-appointed negotiating team with carte blanche authority to a negotiate a final and lasting settlement.

My understanding of the reasoning or consideration which necessitated the inclusion of Section 805 in the Covenant was given in view of the importance of the ownership of land for the culture and traditions of the people of the NMI, and in order to protect them against exploitation and to promote their economic advancement and self-sufficiency. This particular section of the Covenant clearly states that it is the CNMI government's responsibility to implement and enforce the intent and purpose of Section 805. The First CNMI Constitutional Convention was tasked to provide the mechanism necessary to fulfill this requirement as part of its quest—fulfillment for self-government—thus the fruition of Article 12 in the CNMI Constitution.

It is clear to me that Section 805 (a) does not state that we must end the implementation of Article 12 in 2011 (25 years from 1986). However, a catch-22 condition is obviously provided by Section 805: 1) protection against exploitation; and, 2) promotion of economic advancement and self-sufficiency. Having perused such text, it is my opinion that the CNMI government should be readily responsive to make a determination by 2011 whether Article 12 has been sufficiently implemented against any exploitation of landowners and whether such implementation has positively promoted the economic advancement and self-sufficiency of landowners.

Some folks might disagree with what I have to say here but I can end this brief discourse in this fashion: It appears that there is a need to establish a covenant section 805 commission who, among other things, should be tasked to compile all relevant data with respect to

so how do we get to that profitable mix? To us, the answer is clear. Professional women have been leaving the workplace in droves, and we need to stop the brain drain. Recent studies show that almost a third of professional women opt out at some point in their careers and, strikingly, that MBAs are more likely than lawyers or doctors to choose to stay home with their children.

Beyond a certain point, many women find that the costs to family of a high-octane career are just too great. We need to recognize that the glass ceiling is in part a self-imposed, defensive perimeter. But we can't afford to have women take themselves out of the running for top slots. And the only way to prevent that is changing the workplace to allow us the freedom to fit in our personal lives.

Luckily, that freedom makes economic sense, too. That's why companies such as Wal-Mart, Capital One, Best Buy, Sun Microsystems and Sara Lee, to name just a few, say they have glimpsed the future of work and have decided it's an extremely manageable place. They've discovered that allowing people to work the way they want—from home; at night; from the sidelines of the soccer field—actually in-

creases productivity. Best Buy found that changing the work rules boosted productivity by an average of 40 percent.

And though progress is slow, women are negotiating nontraditional paths to senior management. Witness Sara Lee's chief executive, Brenda Barnes. As a PepsiCo executive vice president, she left corporate America for seven years to raise her children. Her return is a singular achievement, but it suggests a future in which careers can move in waves, not straight up, or straight off of, a ladder.

Corporate America, take the first step toward economic recovery. Open your minds and offices to new ways of working and succeeding. Not because you are nice guys—but because it will help the economy and your bottom line.

Katty Kay is a Washington anchor and reporter for "BBC World News America." Claire Shipman is the senior national correspondent for ABC's "Good Morning America." They are the authors of *Womenomics*.

By **WILLIAM H. STEWART**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

William H. Stewart is an economist, historian, and military cartographer.



Letters to the Editor

Bloody discussion

It appears that the so-called Article 12 dilemma has gained some momentum as a result of professor Rose Cuizon Villazor's lecture, which she delivered last July 7 at the AMP Visitors Center. In fact, it has somewhat become a bloody discussion for some individuals in the audience who were allowed to express their views following Professor Villazor's presentation. I say bloody in the sense that the term blood quantum was a central concept used throughout the exchange of discussions that transpired.

Although I have my own personal opinion whether to support the abolition or continuity of Article 12, I would like to limit this letter's purpose by focusing on the issue of the fact that some folks are looking at the year 2011 as the time to take action on such an important question by our people or leaders.

Apparently, the year 2011 is obvious since the U.S. Trusteeship Agreement was terminated in the year 1986. Section 805 (a) of the Covenant prescribes the 25-year period during which the CNMI government must regulate alienation of permanent and long-term interests in real property so as to restrict the acquisition of such interests to persons of NMI decent. Furthermore, Section 805 (a) provides that the CNMI government may regulate the extent to which a person may own or hold land which is now public land.

FIXING

From Page 10

hard math. The "diversity prediction theorem" is part of the most cutting-edge thinking about best business practices. Scott Page, an economist at the University of Michigan, uses mathematical models to demonstrate that a diverse group will solve a complicated business problem better than a homogeneous group. In fact, diversity is even more important than expertise. In other words, a bunch of white male brainiacs won't usually reach the best conclusions.

There's a sound business reason why Norway now mandates that corporate boards be 40 percent female. Why Iceland, after its embarrassing financial mess, put major banks and its government in female hands. And why Hermes, the only French company to outperform expectations during the recession, also has, you guessed it, a management structure dominated by women.

Americans aren't so enamored of social engineering, of course,

the implementation of Article 12 and undertake a study whose objective is to make a finding whether the intent and purpose of Section 805, as provided by the Covenant, has been or has not been met.

In closing, I would give this advice: The Covenant is a product of a lengthy period of negotiations. Indeed, it was not done in haste. Therefore, any movement to repeal or amend, terminate or perpetuate any part or derivative of such political and historical document should be taken with careful deliberation and given ample public scrutiny so as to consequently benefit all concerns and interested groups on what appropriate steps to take relative to their stance on whatever the emergent issues surround Article 12.

I would also like to take this opportunity to extend my appreciation to professor Villazor's scholarly effort and the keen interest she manifested in her published essay, *Blood Quantum, Land Laws and the Race Versus Political Identity Dilemma*. One must read it to decide on its usefulness, especially for those who are seriously contemplating litigation on the constitutionality of Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution or Section 805 (a) of the Covenant. Should there be litigation of this sort, who would then be the defending party? The CNMI government alone or the CNMI government and U.S. government jointly since the Covenant was bilaterally entered by both sides in a duly authorized and recognized act as set forth by the mandates of the U. N. Trusteeship Council?

Noel Quitugua

Koblerville, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▼ 76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Yap	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 75
Kosrae	Rain	▲ 90 ▼ 78
Majuro	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲ 55 ▼ 53
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 100 ▼ 75
Hong Kong	Showers	▲ 90 ▼ 82
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 84 ▼ 76
London	Showers	▲ 73 ▼ 55
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲ 84 ▼ 64
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲ 83 ▼ 78
Melbourne	Showers	▲ 56 ▼ 42
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 91 ▼ 78
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲ 83 ▼ 65
Osaka	Partly Sunny	▲ 88 ▼ 72
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲ 80 ▼ 59
Pusan	Rain	▲ 80 ▼ 76
Rome	Sunny	▲ 88 ▼ 65
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲ 81 ▼ 50
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲ 78 ▼ 55
Seoul	Rain	▲ 81 ▼ 70
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 73
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲ 88 ▼ 72

Tides

Sunrise/Sunset

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:54 AM	6:51 PM	Today	11:13 PM	11:08 AM
Wednesday	5:55 AM	6:51 PM	Thursday	11:53 PM	11:59 AM
Thursday	5:55 AM	6:51 PM	Friday		12:53 PM
Friday	5:55 AM	6:51 PM	Saturday	12:37 AM	1:51 PM
Saturday	5:55 AM	6:51 PM	Sunday	1:27 AM	2:53 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

■ ISLAND SNAPSHTOS

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

■ BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

■ BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

■ SAMUT SAR

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

■ TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan.

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 13, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597 11:50am 12:25pm 1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317 4:20am 5:10am Daily
C09313 8:30am 9:20am Daily
C09597 11:50am 12:20pm 1, 7 via ROP
C09601 12:30pm 1:20pm 4, 5
C09603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily
C09605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily
C09599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW99 6:05am 8:40am Daily
NW78 9:00am 2:05pm Daily via NGO
NW75 3:50pm 6:25pm Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

02119 4:00am 6:40am 1, 4, 6

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78 9:00am 11:40am Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

02608 3:20am 6:50am 1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

02604 2:20am 6:00am 1
02604 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
02119 4:00am 11:20am 1, 4, 6 via KIX
02606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008 3:30am 6:40am 2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

02604/701 2:20am 11:25am 1 via ICN
02604/701 2:50am 11:25am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/893 4:30am 8:50am 7 via GUM
C09603/933 3:30pm 8:40pm Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111 9:30pm 7:45am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596 10:55pm 7:50am+1 Daily via GUM
0Z704/605 11:50pm 2:30pm+1 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

0Z604/721 2:20am 11:45am 1 via ICN
0Z604/721 2:50am 11:45am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

0Z724/605 12:30am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
0Z722/603 1:15pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN
0Z722/603 1:15pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline ETD ETA Frequency

Guam-Rota

FRE 113 11:40am 11:50am Daily

FRE 115 1:00pm 1:10pm Daily

FRE 117 2:30pm 2:40pm Daily

FRE 119 4:00pm 4:10pm Daily

FRE 121 4:40pm 4:50pm Daily

FRE 123 * 5:40pm 5:50pm Daily

FRE 125 * 6:00pm 6:10pm Daily

Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**

FRE 102 7:05am 7:15am Daily

FRE 104 7:50am 8:00am Daily

FRE 106** 8:20am 8:30am Daily

FRE 108** 9:00am 9:10am Daily

FRE 110 10:00am 10:10am Daily

FRE 112 11:05am 11:15am Daily

FRE 114 12:00pm 12:10pm Daily

FRE 116 1:30pm 1:40pm Daily

FRE 118 2:50pm 3:00pm Daily

Business

Geithner to focus on investment, economic recovery

US, Swiss ask for delay in UBS secrecy case

By CURT ANDERSON
AP LEGAL AFFAIRS WRITER

The U.S. and Swiss governments and banking giant UBS AG indicated Sunday they were seeking a settlement and asked a federal judge to delay high-stakes hearings on the Internal Revenue Service's effort to identify thousands of suspected American tax evaders.

The one-page motion, filed in Miami less than 24 hours before the hearings were to begin Monday, said postponement is needed "to allow the two governments to continue their discussions seeking a resolution of this matter."

Unless a deal is reached beforehand, the filing asks that the hearing be rescheduled for Aug. 3.

U.S. District Judge Alan S. Gold did not immediately rule on the request, but judges routinely allow parties in civil cases extra time to settle out of court.

In a statement, the U.S. Justice Department said any agreement would have to require that UBS provide "information on a significant number of individuals with UBS accounts."

"If an alternative resolution is not reached, the Department of Justice will continue to vigorously pursue enforcement of the summons through the court," the statement said.

The case seeking the identities of some 52,000 wealthy American clients suspected of hiding \$15 billion at UBS has already sent shock waves through the international banking system.

WASHINGTON (AP)—On his first trip to the Middle East as Treasury Secretary, Timothy Geithner's message this week will be similar to the one he delivered to Chinese officials a month ago: your investments in the United States are safe.

Geithner is expected to repeat assurances that the government's soaring budget deficits will not trigger a devastating bout of inflation that sinks the value of the dollar and foreigners' holdings.

Geithner is scheduled to hold high-level meetings on Tues-

day and Wednesday with top government officials and leading business executives in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

In advance of those meetings, Geithner stressed in an interview broadcast Sunday that the administration was committed to protecting the value of the dollar and maintaining investor confidence in the U.S. financial system.

"A strong dollar is in the inter-

est of the United States. Of course, I deeply believe that," Geithner said on CNN's "Fareed Zakaria GPS."

"Our commitment ... to the world and of course, the American people, is to make sure we'll put in place the policies that can sustain confidence in this economy and this financial system," he said.

But many private economists believe the administration needs to do more to address worries about America's



Geithner

soaring budget deficits.

"We have a fiscal policy that will ultimately undermine the value of their holdings and that has got foreign investors nervous," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Economy.com. "They are seeking assurances that the U.S. is committed to dealing with its long-term deficit problems."

On Monday, the government is expected to announce that the deficit through the first nine months of this budget year hit an historic milestone in June, topping \$1 trillion.

GOP unifies against any more stimulus spending

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republicans lined up Sunday in opposition to a second economic stimulus package, a rare demonstration of unity from an out-of-power political party in search of a rallying cry against President Barack Obama.

Republicans called Obama's \$787 billion spending plan a "flop" and said it hasn't fulfilled its hype. They criticized the White House for increasing the federal deficit and doing little to combat an unemployment rate that hit 9.5 percent in June.

"The reality is it hasn't helped yet," said Sen. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz. "Only about 6.8 percent of the money has actually been spent. What I proposed is, after you complete the contracts that are already committed, the things that are in the pipeline, stop it."

Obama urged patience with his spending program, which administration officials acknowledge was designed with incorrect or incomplete economic data.

"The stimulus package is working exactly as we had anticipated," Obama told CNN in an interview from Ghana that aired on Sunday.

"We always anticipated that a big chunk of that money then would be spent not only in the second half of the year, but also next year. This was designed to



In this photo provided by FOX News, Rep. Eric Cantor, R-Va., appears on "Fox News Sunday" in Washington, Sunday, July 12, 2009.

be a two-year plan and not a six-month plan," he said.

Republicans, though, were not willing to sit by idly.

"I do think it is fair to say that

the stimulus is a flop," said Rep. Eric Cantor, R-Va. "The goal that was set when we passed it was unemployment wouldn't rise past 8.5 percent, and what

we see now is businesses just aren't hiring. Even the best projections have us losing 750,000 more jobs this year."

Congress passed Obama's economic stimulus plan over the objection of out-of-power Republican lawmakers. Since then, GOP aides on Capitol Hill and officials alike have seized on the spending's shortcomings and unfulfilled promises.

"A lot of it has been spent on ridiculous projects," said Sen. John McCain, the Arizona Republican who was his party's presidential nominee last year.

Obama's allies defended the spending they helped usher into law. "It's a two-year plan and we're four months into it," said Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill.

Some, including billionaire Warren Buffett, have called for a second round of spending to steady the economy. Obama and his allies have said it's too early to make that decision; his critics, though, pledged to redouble their opposition to any second spending bill.

"I think that would be the biggest mistake we could ever make," McCain said.

Kyl and Durbin appeared on ABC's "This Week." Cantor spoke with "Fox News Sunday." McCain was interviewed on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Investors look to companies for clues on economy

NEW YORK (AP)—Investors are about to get some of the economic data they've been craving—from the country's big corporations.

Hundreds of earnings reports from the April-June quarter will begin flowing in this week, helping investors answer questions about how soon the economy will start growing. With the economy not gaining momentum after some early signs of recovery, in-

vestors are worried that they bet too soon on a rebound during the market's spring rally.

The early part of the rally came as data showed the pace of the economy's slide was slowing. But the euphoria has given way to a realization that just because the economy isn't collapsing, it isn't necessarily going to shift into growth anytime soon.

No one expects any obvious signals, such as a sudden pop

in corporate profits. Instead, investors will pore over companies' forecasts.

"Investors are hungry for a sense that things have turned, or are about to turn, and want to see some validation of that," said Michael Cuggino, president and portfolio manager at Pacific Heights Asset Management in San Francisco.

"What's going to be most important is what companies

are saying about their own businesses and industries, in terms of activity, outlooks," he said.

Without some upbeat predictions, stocks could extend a monthlong retreat. The Dow Jones industrial average on Friday closed at 8,147, its lowest level since April 28. The blue chips have fallen 7.4 percent in four weeks, the longest slide since stocks bounced off 12-year lows on March 9 to rally 40 percent.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Calif. leaders face tough choices in budget talks

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—California's top lawmakers on Sunday focused on cost-saving reforms to social welfare programs and how deeply to cut an array of state services as they dove into the complex task of closing the state's \$26 billion deficit. Lawmakers warned that severe cuts to many state programs were unavoidable. But they also seemed more optimistic than they have been in weeks that they could find a way out of California's fiscal morass. "We're on a good path here," said Senate leader Darrell Steinberg, D-Sacramento. He joined other legislative leaders in talks Sunday with Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Oil slides toward \$59, extending 2-week sell-off

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices dived to near \$59 a barrel Friday in Asia, extending a two-week sell-off fueled by growing investor pessimism about global economic growth and crude demand. Benchmark crude for August delivery was down 67 cents to \$59.22 a barrel by midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. On Friday, the contract fell 52 cents to settle at \$59.89. Prices have fallen \$14 a barrel, or 19 percent, since June 30 after poor unemployment data from the U.S. and Europe sparked investor doubts that the global economy was poised for strong recovery this year.

Asian stocks extend losses amid economic jitters

HONG KONG (AP)—Asian markets extended their slide Monday as confidence about a quick economic recovery continued to wane. All of the region's major markets lost ground, with Japan's index headed for its ninth straight loss amid reports the prime minister had decided to dissolve parliament and call general elections. Oil prices resumed their two week sell-off to trade near \$59 a barrel. Renewed anxiety about the pace of recovery in the world economy has kept stocks from rallying further after huge gains between March and June.

RI bucks trend, fights to keep greyhound racing

LINCOLN, R.I. (AP)—Greyhound tracks are folding across the country, but in cash-strapped Rhode Island—where the unemployment rate is among the nation's worst—lawmakers are betting on the dogs to save jobs.

Rhode Island legislators are fighting to expand greyhound racing, an increasingly outdated and unprofitable sport that has been squeezed out by newer forms of gambling. Over the objection of Gov. Don Carcieri, lawmakers have moved to force a bankrupt, state-licensed slot parlor to run 200 days of live racing at its greyhound track even though current law only requires 125. Carcieri, a Republican, vetoed the legislation, but lawmakers in the Democratic-dominated General Assembly say they expect to override it.

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Pa. swim club accused of racism to ask kids back

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A private suburban swim club accused of racism after it canceled the memberships of dozens of minority children says it will seek a meeting with the kids' camps to work out an agreement for them to return. Amy Goldman, a member of The Valley Club, said those able to attend a hastily called meeting Sunday afternoon voted unanimously in support of reinstating the memberships of the Creative Steps day camp and two other camps as long as safety issues, times and terms can be agreed upon. The Creative Steps camp had arranged for 65 mostly black and Hispanic children to swim each Monday afternoon at the gated Huntingdon Valley club, which is on a leafy hillside in a village straddling two overwhelmingly white townships. But after the group arrived June 29, camp director Alethea Wright said, several children reported hearing racial comments and some swim club members pulled their children out of the pool. The camp's \$1,950 was refunded a few days later.

Church bus crash kills 1 in Miss.; 23 injured

MERIDIAN, Miss. (AP)—A bus carrying a church youth group from Louisiana to Georgia flipped Sunday on Interstate 20 in Mississippi, killing one person and injuring 23 others, a coroner said. The bus, from First Baptist Church in Shreveport, La., rolled three times around 10:20 a.m. near Meridian and trapped at least two people underneath, Lauderdale County Coroner Clayton Cobler III said. "It had a blowout," Cobler said. At least two passengers were trapped underneath the bus. A group of National Guard soldiers was on the highway at the time and helped extricate the injured. "The National Guardsmen actually picked the bus up off the two people and got them out," Cobler said.

Woman was gagged before body found in NYC building

NEW YORK (AP)—A woman found dead in a skyscraper where a cleaning woman had vanished days earlier was bound and gagged and had a gold crucifix taped to her mouth, police said Sunday. Police searching for the missing cleaning woman at a building near the World Trade Center site found the body on Saturday after discovering blood leaking from a ventilation shaft, top police spokesman Paul Browne said. The body hadn't been identified, but police presumed it was that of Eridania Rodriguez, who hasn't been seen since her work shift Tuesday at the 26-story Manhattan tower. Rodriguez' street clothes and other belongings were found in her locker, and video surveillance didn't show her leaving the building.

Man shot dead in scuffle with NYC cop on his stoop

NEW YORK (AP)—A man who told an undercover policeman to get off his family's stoop punched the officer and struggled over the officer's gun before being shot dead, police said Sunday. Shem Walker hit the officer on the head and grabbed his gun Saturday night, police said. Other officers heard the undercover officer or a plainclothes colleague identify themselves, top police spokesman Paul Browne said. But Walker's relatives said they were nearby and didn't hear any officers identify themselves, said Councilwoman Letitia James, who visited the family Sunday. The shooting raised questions about police conduct, she said.

Sotomayor faces friendly jury as hearings begin



In this May 26, 2009 file photo, President Barack Obama announces federal appeals court judge Sonia Sotomayor, right, as his nominee for the Supreme Court in an East Room ceremony of the White House in Washington. AP

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sonia Sotomayor has decided advantages as she begins the most important trial of her long legal career, a nationally televised consideration of her nomination to be the first Hispanic and just the third woman on the Supreme Court.

Beginning Monday, she will tell her compelling up-from-poverty personal story to a jury tilted strongly in her favor — Democrats hold a comfortable majority on the Senate Judiciary Committee

and a filibuster-resistant 60 votes in the Senate.

Still, Republicans signaled that they will press the 55-year-old New Yorker and veteran federal judge to explain past rulings involving discrimination complaints and gun rights, as well as comments that they say raise doubts about Sotomayor's ability to judge cases fairly.

The sharpest comments about her so far came Sunday from Sen. Jeff Sessions of Alabama, the senior Republican on the committee.

2 held on murder charges in Fla. couple's slaying

PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP)—Two men were held late Sunday on open murder charges in the slaying of a wealthy Florida Panhandle couple known for adopting children with developmental disabilities.

Day laborer Wayne Coldiron turned himself in to Escambia County authorities and Leonard P. Gonzalez Jr. was arrested in neighboring Santa Rosa County, Escambia County Sheriff David Morgan said.

Earlier Sunday, 56-year-old Leonard P. Gonzalez Sr. was charged with evidence tampering. Police said he tried to paint over and hide damage on a red van that was spotted on surveillance video leaving the home where Byrd and Melanie Billings were shot

to death Thursday while eight of their children slept.

Coldiron, who was known to work with area car dealers, was friends with the elder Gonzalez, Morgan said.

More arrests are expected.

The Billings were killed in their spacious, nine-bedroom home in a rural area west of Pensacola near the Alabama state line. The house had an extensive surveillance system that authorities said captured three apparently experienced criminals swiftly slipping into the house before leaving and driving off in the red van. Tips from the public led police to the van Saturday.

Morgan said the investigation involves a complex web of relation-

ships between suspects, though he declined to elaborate on them. He said it did not appear that the suspects knew the victims, though the companies the Billingses owned included a used car dealership.

"We are very anxious to share this story ... it's going to be a humdinger, I'll tell you that," he said earlier in the day.

Officials still haven't said why the family was targeted. Police also have not said whether anything was stolen from the home, which had nine bedrooms to accommodate the large family. The children who were there during the killings, ages 8 to 14, were interviewed by police and are now staying with other family members.

Feinstein suggests CIA concealment broke law

WASHINGTON (AP)—Six months into Barack Obama's presidency, his Democratic allies are pushing for twin investigations into Bush-era torture and anti-terrorism policies.

Two senators including the head of the intelligence committee suggested Sunday that the prior administration broke the law by concealing a CIA counterterrorism program from Congress.

The assertion that Vice President Dick Cheney ordered the concealment came amid word that Attorney General Eric Holder is contemplating opening a criminal probe of possible CIA torture.

A move to appoint a criminal pros-

ecutioner that could prove a distraction to Obama's efforts to push ambitious health care and energy reform. Obama has repeatedly expressed reluctance to probing alleged Bush-era abuses. He resisted an effort by congressional Democrats to establish a "truth commission," saying the nation should be "looking forward and not backwards."

Regarding the 8-year-old counterterrorism program, the Bush administration's failure to notify Congress "is a big problem, because the law is very clear," said Senate Intelligence Committee chairwoman Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif.

Congress should investigate the secrecy because "it could be illegal," Democratic Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill.,

said. According to Feinstein, CIA director Leon Panetta told Congress late last month that "he had just learned about the program, described it to us, indicated that he had canceled it and ... did tell us that he was told that the vice president had ordered that the program not be briefed to the Congress."

"We were kept in the dark. That's something that should never, ever happen again," said Feinstein.

Feinstein said that she understands the need for strong countermeasures following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

However, "I think you weaken your case when you go outside of the law," she added.

Thunderstorms delay the space shuttle launch again

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—Thunderstorms forced NASA to call off Sunday evening's launch of shuttle Endeavour, the fourth delay for the space station construction mission.

The launch team came within minutes of sending Endeavour and seven astronauts to the international space station. But storms quickly moved in from the west and violated NASA's safety rules, and managers halted the countdown. They will try again Monday, despite an outlook calling for more bad weather.

"We got the vehicle ready, and the weather unfortunately did not cooperate with us today," launch director Pete Nickolenko told the seven astronauts aboard Endeavour.

"We understand and we'll be ready," replied commander Mark Polansky.

NASA has until Tuesday, possibly Wednesday, to launch Endeavour with the final piece of Japan's space station lab. Otherwise, it will have to wait until the end of July because of a Russian supply ship that's awaiting liftoff. The three previous countdowns never made it this far.

Saturday's launch attempt was foiled by a series of lightning strikes around the pad that required extra checks of the many critical shuttle systems. Back in June, hydrogen gas leaks held everything up.

Asia

Reports: Japan's leader to call national elections

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's embattled prime minister has decided to dissolve parliament and call general elections for next month, a news report said Monday, after his party was defeated in a Tokyo municipal poll considered a barometer of voter sentiment.

Broadcaster NHK and Kyodo News said Taro Aso would dissolve the powerful lower house of parliament next week, and that national elections would be held Aug. 30. Spokesmen at the Liberal Democratic Party headquarters and the prime minister's office said they had no knowledge of the matter.

Aso's Liberal Democratic Party and its coalition partner lost their majority Sunday in the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly, the local parliament for the Japanese capital and most populated prefecture.

The Tokyo vote was closely watched as sign of how Aso's ruling party would fare against the main opposition Democratic Party of Japan in a general election, which must take place by October. In the Japanese political system the head of the party



Japanese Prime Minister Taro Aso attends a meeting with his cabinet and coalition party members at his official residence in Tokyo Monday, July 13, 2009. The

that has control of the national parliament generally becomes prime minister.

Aso has suffered low approval ratings as Japan's economy stumbles toward deflation and political wrangling has delayed the passing of legislation.

As prime minister he can call a general election at any time, but had apparently been waiting, gambling that his political situation could improve.

The dire results of the Tokyo election seemed to have forced his hand. An emboldened opposition could gain momentum and do further political damage. Kyodo News reported Monday that the Democrats would introduce a no-confidence resolution and censure motion in parliament against Aso.

Tokyo election results released early Monday morning by the parties showed the Liberal Democrats lost 10 seats in the Tokyo election, while its coalition partner, the New Komeito Party, gained just one, giving the coalition 61 seats—below the crucial 64 needed for a majority.

Prior to the election the Liberal Democrats held 48 seats

and the New Komeito had 22, giving the coalition a comfortable majority.

The Democratic Party of Japan, which has long clashed with Aso's Liberal Democrats on major issues, gained 20 seats, increasing its share to 54. Together, parties aligned against the Liberal Democrats now hold a slight majority in Tokyo's local parliament.

"Voters are fed up with the Liberal Democratic Party. Its economic and social welfare policies are all deadlocked. Voters are hoping that the Democratic Party of Japan can bring change to Japanese politics," said Takayoshi Matsuo, emeritus professor of political science at Kyoto University.

In the run-up to the Tokyo poll, Aso's party has already lost four straight regional elections since April to the opposition party.

Since taking office in September last year, Aso has struggled to shore up sagging public support, which remains at 20 percent. The 68-year-old premier has been diminished by a string of political gaffes and weak leadership.

China eases security as Urumqi gradually reopens

URUMQI, China (AP)—Fewer security personnel were visible on the streets of riot-hit Urumqi on Monday as more roads reopened and shops unlocked their doors. State media warned that the death toll from the violence that rocked the city in western China could climb.

The July 5 riots and subsequent unrest in Urumqi left 184 people dead and 1,680 wounded. Of the more than 900 people still in hospital, 74 have life-threatening wounds, the official Xinhua News Agency said. Last week, riot police and paramilitary forces came out in force to block off the city center and restore order after China's worst ethnic violence in decades.

On Monday, the security vehicles previously deployed at People's Square were gone but helmeted riot police remained in the area. Small groups of paramilitary police with riot shields stood guard on street corners and helicopters flew over the city, but most roads leading to the Grand Bazaar market were reopened.

In the Uighur districts, more shops lifted their shutters, vendors pushed carts full of peaches and watermelon sellers sliced up their wares. Restaurant staff set up tables under trees next to the road.

Radio talk show hosts meanwhile urged taxi drivers to be polite to foreign and domestic visitors.

The violence began when Uighurs (pronounced WEE-

gers) who were protesting the deaths of Uighur factory workers in a brawl in southern China clashed with police in Urumqi. Crowds scattered throughout the city, attacking ethnic Han Chinese and burning cars.

Government officials have yet to make public key details about what happened next, including how much force police used to restore order. In the following days, vigilante mobs of Han Chinese ran through the city with bricks, clubs and cleavers seeking revenge.

Of the dead, the government has said 137 Han Chinese and 46 Uighurs died, with one minority Hui Muslim also killed. Uighurs say they believe many more from their ethnic group died in the government crackdown.

Since last week, tens of thousands of Chinese troops have poured into Urumqi (pronounced uh-ROOM-chee) and other parts of Xinjiang to impose order. A senior Communist Party official vowed to execute those guilty of murder in the rioting.

Xinhua said police were manning checkpoints and searching buses for any suspects involved in the violence.

The English-language Global Times newspaper, which is connected to the Communist Party's

People's Daily newspaper, ran a front-page article Monday criticizing Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's comments likening the situation in Xinjiang to genocide.

Freeport mine ambushes kill 3 in Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesian authorities found the body of a policeman near the operations of U.S. mining conglomerate Freeport Monday, raising the death toll from a series of weekend ambushes to three, officials and state media said.

A 29-year-old Australian mining expert and a security guard also were killed and seven others wounded in three weekend shootings within a 2-mile (3.2-kilometer) radius near the Grasberg mining complex in the restive Papua province, police said.

It is the worst violence in the militarized zone since two American school teachers and an Indonesian colleague were

murdered in 2002.

Indonesian authorities have blamed Papuan separatists, but police say they recovered military-grade bullet casings from the scene, casting doubt on claims that the rebels were responsible.

The policeman, who had been reported missing Sunday, was found dead in a ravine Monday, the Antara state news agency reported, citing unnamed sources.

The police's paramilitary unit, known as the mobile brigade, called in reinforcements to join the hunt for the perpetrators, Papua police spokesman Lt. Col. Nurhabri said Monday.

"We have sent a group of mobile brigade police into the

jungle," he said. They have "not found anything yet and the search is continuing," adding that it was extremely rough terrain.

Extra police forces were also deployed around the perimeter of Freeport's Grasberg mine, he said, but he declined to give numbers.

The escalation of tension in Papua, a highly militarized zone on the western half of New Guinea island, is an unwelcome development for Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, who was re-elected just last week to a second five-year term. It also raised questions about a possible resurgence of Papua's secessionist movement, which until recent months had shown few signs of life.

Report: NKorea's Kim has pancreatic cancer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Il has life-threatening pancreatic cancer, a news report said Monday, days after new images of him looking gaunt spurred speculation that his health might be worsening following a reported stroke last year.

The 67-year-old Kim was diagnosed with the cancer around the time he was felled by a stroke last summer, Seoul's YTN television reported, citing unidentified intelligence officials in South Korea and China.

The report cited the officials saying the disease is "threatening" Kim's life.

Pancreatic cancer is usually found in its final stage, and considering Kim's age, he is

expected to live no more than five years, the report said.

South Korea's spy agency said it could not confirm the report. Unification Ministry spokesman Chun Hae-sung told reporters he knows of nothing of the report.

Kim's health is a focus of intense media speculation due to concerns about instability and a power struggle if he were to die without naming a successor. His third and youngest son, Kim Jong Un, has widely been reported as being groomed as heir, but the regime has made no announcement to the outside world.

Monday's report came after Kim last week made a rare public appearance, in an annual memorial for his late father and North

Korea's founder, Kim Il Sung.

Television footage showed him markedly thinner and with less hair—only the second state event he has attended in person since the reported stroke. He also limped slightly, and the sides of his tight-lipped mouth looked imbalanced in what were believed to be the effects of a stroke.

The images touched off speculation that he could have other health problems.

South Korea's spy agency has long suspected that Kim has diabetes and heart disease.

Medical doctor and professor Min Yang-ki of Seoul's Hallym University Medical Center has said diabetes usually leads to weight loss. The neurologist also said Kim's limping appears to be a result of a stroke.

ASIAN BRIEFS

RP welcomes back exiled communist leader

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine government on Monday welcomed the return of an exiled communist rebel negotiator ahead of a resumption of peace talks that both sides hope will end a 40-year insurgency. Luis Jalandoni and wife Consuelo Ledesma, both members of the communist-led National Democratic Front, took advantage of the government's promise of immunity and returned to Manila on Sunday to visit Jalandoni's ailing sister, said their colleague, Rep. Satur Ocampo. Jalandoni has said he would take part in the talks and that they could resume as early as August in the Norwegian capital of Oslo. Norway, which has been facilitating the negotiations for years, arranged a meeting between the government and rebels in The Hague last month.

South Korea's spy agency lowers cyberattack alert

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's spy agency lowered the country's cyberattack alert Monday as affected Web sites returned to normal after suffering outages in a series of assaults that have cast suspicion on North Korea. Dozens of South Korean and U.S. Web sites, including those of the White House and South Korea's presidential Blue House, were targeted in the so-called denial of service attacks, in which floods of computers try to connect to a single site at the same time to overwhelm the server. But there have been no new Web attacks since the last wave launched Thursday evening. South Korea's National Intelligence Service said in a statement that it lowered the alert level because the attacks are fizzling out, but added it will keep a close watch for any signs of fresh assaults.

2 US Marines die in S. Afghanistan bomb blasts

KABUL (AP)—A bomb blast killed two U.S. Marines in Afghanistan's dangerous south, where thousands of American troops have deployed in a massive operation to oust Taliban fighters from the country's opium poppy region, officials said Sunday. Some 4,000 Marines moved into Helmand province this month, the largest Marine operation in Afghanistan since the 2001 U.S. invasion. They have met little head-on resistance but remain vulnerable to guerrilla tactics like suicide and roadside bombs. "These terrorist attacks are hard to prevent, can be carried out by a few individuals, and do not require a military force capable of confronting the Marines," said Arturo Munoz, an expert on the tribal environment in Helmand province with the Washington-based RAND Corp.

World

After 2 tough summits, Obama savors Ghana moment

CAPE COAST, Ghana (AP)—For a new president, there inevitably comes that moment: the first time he hears a foreign crowd hoarsely chanting his name, or sees thousands of well-wishers surging forward, or realizes youngsters are running pell-mell beside his motorcade, desperate for a glimpse of his face.

For Barack Obama, the moment came here—in the teeming streets near a West African castle where traders once shipped human chattel to a life of toil in the New World.

After a week of difficult summits in Russia and Italy, trying to get balky allies to follow his lead, the outpouring Obama was treated to in Ghana can only be called rapturous—from Africans overjoyed at the visit of America's first black president to a country south of the Sahara.

And after feeling this kind of love, it must be cruelly hard to go home.

Awaiting Obama in Washington: an ever-more-painful recession and two of the biggest fights of his young presidency—over health care and energy.

As he toured Europe and Africa, conservative “Blue Dog” Democrats sought major changes to the health care overhaul House leaders are working on—and in so doing, forced a delay. At a news conference in Italy, Obama sought to downplay that, repeating his call for



President Barack Obama, second right, first lady Michelle Obama, second left, and their daughters Malia, left, and Sasha, right, arrive at the White House from Ghana, early Sunday, July 12, 2009, in Washington.

action by the August recess, but it was clear his top agenda item had hit a speed bump.

Meantime, though Obama bragged to the allies about House passage of a cap-and-trade bill, the coalition on global warming was fragile, and the measure's fate in the Senate remains uncertain.

But the start of Obama's latest foreign trip was a hard diplomatic slog, too.

In Moscow, Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev agreed to negotiate a new nuclear arms accord to replace START I, which expires in December. However, he left Moscow with disputes over missile defense, Russia's neighbor Georgia and Moscow's treatment of dissidents unresolved.

In L'Aquila, Italy, the G-8 Summit ended on a similarly in-

conclusive note, as developing nations balked at G-8 calls to halve greenhouse gas emissions by mid-century. Which must have made the Ghanaian effusion all the sweeter.

It began in the capital, Accra, where parliament treated him to a cheering welcome, heralded by a merry trombone-blast fanfare. “I have the blood of Africa within me,” Obama declared, before pre-

dicting a new African dawn if the continent can throw off its history of coups and corruption.

But the White House had purposely not scheduled any large, outdoor events in the capital, so the reception there was subdued. Aides said Obama wanted the focus on his message, not him. They also wanted no repeat of President Bill Clinton's open-air speech in 1998—after which he was nearly trampled by a jubilant throng.

In Cape Coast, a 40-minute helicopter ride from Accra, any such qualms were swept away.

In this one-time headquarters of Britain's Gold Coast slave trade, Obama's likeness was everywhere on placards and billboards. Thousands jammed his motorcade route from the muddy soccer field where he landed to Cape Coast Castle—waving, cheering, chanting, the women ululating, children climbing trees and clambering atop boxes for a better view. They wore T-shirts bearing his likeness, and his campaign motto “Yes We Can.”

His wife, Michelle, the great-great-granddaughter of slaves, was in the armored SUV beside him. His daughters, Malia, 11, and Sasha, 8, were along for the ride, also marveling at the sight.

As the motorcade pulled up at the castle, drummers kept up an insistent beat, and a PA announcer blared, “Let us welcome His Excellency, President Barack Obama!”

WORLD BRIEFS

Somalia clashes kill dozens, AU helps gov't forces

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—Islamic insurgents fought their way toward Somalia's presidential palace Sunday in fighting that killed dozens and wounded about 150, officials said. African Union peacekeepers directly intervened for the first time to support government forces. An Associated Press reporter saw several bodies and two AU tanks on the front line. Government forces used rocket-propelled grenades and anti-aircraft guns mounted on the back of trucks, which they fired horizontally through the streets. “The fighting in Mogadishu has entered a new phase,” said Ali Mohamud Rage, a spokesman for the al-Shabab rebel group, which is believed to have ties to al-Qaida. Al-Shabab denies any ties.

Colombia leader gives \$1M to victims of conflicts

MONTERIA, Colombia (AP)—President Alvaro Uribe delivered reparations totaling nearly \$1 million on Sunday to 279 victims of Colombia's long-running conflict. It was the second disbursement from \$100 million that his government has earmarked this year for 10,000 survivors of crimes by leftist rebels and far-right death squads known as “paramilitaries,” both of which have been fed by drug trafficking. Some 240,000 people have registered since the law facilitating the payments took effect last August. Victims of state security forces are not eligible for any of the estimated \$3.3 billion that the government says it expects to pay out over the coming decade.

Relatives of plane crash victims to visit Comoros

PARIS (AP)—Yemenia Airways has organized a special flight to Comoros for relatives of victims who died when an Airbus 310 crashed in the Indian Ocean last month, officials said. At least 150 family members are expected to fly to Comoros on Monday aboard a French charter plane paid for by the insurance company representing Yemenia Airways. France's Foreign Ministry said Sunday the ambassador named to act as an intermediary for the relatives would travel with them. Yemenia Flight IY626 crashed June 30 on its way from San'a, Yemen, to Moroni, Comoros. Many of those aboard were from the French Comoran community and had embarked in Paris or Marseille. A 12-year-old girl was the only one of the 153 people on the plane to survive.

Honduras lifts curfew 2 weeks after military coup

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—Honduran authorities on Sunday lifted a curfew imposed since the ousting of President Manuel Zelaya two weeks ago—a sign the interim government is trying to restore normality to life in the crisis-gripped country.

In a nationally broadcast announcement, the interim government said the curfew had reached its objective to “restore calm” and curb crime.

The de facto administration

of Roberto Micheletti imposed the curfew after soldiers escorted Zelaya out of the country at gunpoint on June 28, plunging Honduras into political turmoil.

Hondurans were ordered to stay in their homes from 11 p.m. to 4:30 a.m. nightly. The government briefly extended it from sunset to sunrise when Zelaya attempted to return to Honduras and the military blocked his plane from landing by parking vehicles on the runway July 5.

Daily demonstrations for and against the forcibly exiled leader have disrupted transit and prompted many businesses to close. Many governments have withdrawn their ambassadors to protest the coup.

The interim government said Hondurans nationwide can go out at night starting Sunday.

Guillermo Quintanilla, a taxi driver, cheered the action.

“Thank God,” he said. “A lot of people who work at night

have not been able to.”

Juan Barahona, leader of the Zelaya support base, said officials were under pressure from bars and other businesses hurt by the curfew.

“This is to give the world the impression that there is an environment of freedom in the country,” even though that is not the case, he said.

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, who has been the most vociferous defender of Zelaya,

said Sunday that Micheletti was behind the brief detention of journalists for two of his country's state television channels, VTV and Telesur.

Venezuela's ABN state news agency reported that the seven were detained Saturday and later released after Venezuelan Foreign Minister Nicolas Maduro made efforts to secure their freedom.

ABN later reported that a crew working for VTV was expelled from Honduras.

Car bomb explodes outside Iraqi church, kills 4

BAGHDAD (AP)—A car bomb exploded near a church as worshippers left Sunday Mass, killing at least four civilians and injuring 18 in one of several attacks on Iraq's beleaguered Christian minority.

The coordinated assault came as the Iraqi military predicted that insurgent attacks, though declining, could continue for a few years, raising the prospect of militant violence after the scheduled withdrawal of all U.S. troops by the end of 2011.

Three Christians and one Muslim died in the bombing at around 7 p.m. near a church on Palestine Street in eastern Baghdad, said

a police officer who was at the scene. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

An official at al-Kindi hospital confirmed the death toll and said at least 18 people were injured. Also Sunday, a bomb exploded near a convoy of American personnel that included U.S. Ambassador Christopher Hill, though no one was injured.

State Department spokeswoman Joanne Moore said the bomb exploded as the convoy was traveling through Dhi Qar province in southern Iraq.

Violence is sharply down in the war that began with the

Israeli spy memorial hides more than it reveals

GLIOT JUNCTION, Israel (AP)—Near a multiplex cinema and a nondescript highway junction outside Tel Aviv is the place where Israel's secrets go when they get old.

The names and stories are carved into limestone walls and arranged in binders at a sleepy clump of buildings known by a misleadingly dull name—the Israel Intelligence Heritage and Commemoration Center. They offer a unique, if fragmentary, glimpse into the exploits of the Mossad agents and intelligence operatives who have waged this coun-

try's shadow wars.

Here, on a memorial wall, you can encounter names like Shalom Dani, a Holocaust survivor who became the Mossad's master forger. Dani honed his skills under cover in North Africa, taking part in the Mossad's effort to spirit thousands of Moroccan Jews to Israel before being dispatched to Argentina in 1960. There, he counterfeited the documents that allowed a team of agents to smuggle Adolf Eichmann, one of the architects of the Nazi genocide, to his trial and eventual hanging in Israel.

Overdrive

2010 KIA FORTE

Kia's sedan delivers serious quality and value

BY WARREN BROWN
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—To understand the future of the automobile industry, you must understand the success of Wal-Mart, the world's largest retail organization.

It is an achievement based on common sense. Wal-Mart consistently offers excellent quality at prices lower than those charged by the competition.

It is an attractive business model that draws consumers from all walks of life, especially in tough economic times. It matters not that Wal-Mart is a nonunion company with a blue-collar persona. Nor does it matter that you are a professional, or a worker holding a union card. If you want the best for less, you shop there.

So here's the deal: The car company that best follows the Wal-Mart example is the one that will own the future of the automobile industry.

Don't be surprised if that company comes from South Korea.

Take a look at this week's subject car, the 2010 Kia Forte family sedan, sold at base prices of \$13,695 to \$18,195. Those prices cover compact, front-wheel-drive automobiles built as well as anything from Chevrolet, Chrysler, Ford, Honda, Nissan or Toyota. South Korean automobile manufacturer Hyundai owns Kia. So Hyundai is included.

The kicker is that the Forte is priced lower—in many cases much lower—than the competition.

To say the least, I and my evaluation crew—my wife, Mary Anne, and my Washington Post assistant for vehicle evaluations, Ria Manglapus—were shocked. In our minds, we had equated “cheap” with, well, cheap. But after putting nearly 500 miles on the Forte EX, which sits in the middle of the Forte line, we changed our stereotypical



THE WASHINGTON POST
The 2010 Kia Forte family sedan has excellent fit and finish, and its interior ergonomics were better than those found in many rival cars. It delivers serious quality and value.

understanding of “cheap” to a more appropriate “inexpensive.” In this instance, that meant remarkable value.

Fit and finish on our Forte EX was excellent. Interior ergonomics—ease of sight and ease of use of gauges and controls—were better than those found in many rival cars. That's “better” as in “better” as opposed to “better for the money.”

Some examples: Audio, heat and ventilation controls are clearly positioned and labeled, a welcome relief from cars in which the positioning and use of those controls have been turned into a dark science.

Also there's this: In a driving emergency, such as a sudden stoppage of traffic, the caution signal button, indicated by a small red triangle within a larger red triangle, becomes the most important button on the instrument panel. You want to quickly push that button to alert motorists behind you

that you are slowing down or stopping because of trouble ahead.

Too many car companies seem to go out of their way to conceal the caution signal button. Their stylists render the button practically invisible and less useful by shrinking its size and blending it within overall instrument panel.

Kia has taken the opposite approach in its Forte line. The caution signal button is the largest single control; and it sits at the top of the instrument panel. It is hard to miss and easy to reach and use. Thus Kia gives the caution signal button the supreme importance it has always deserved.

We disagreed on the feel of the Forte EX's ride. Ria thought it was too hard, making it a tad uncomfortable for a family sedan. Mary Anne and I demurred. We thought the Forte EX's stiffer-than-usual-ride for a compact sedan (probably because of its optional low-rolling resistance tires) contributed

General Motors to try selling new cars on eBay

NEW YORK (AP) — As part of its turnaround plan, General Motors Corp. said Friday it plans to experiment with auctioning new cars on eBay, expanding on an existing partnership covering certified used vehicles on the online marketplace.

GM CEO Fritz Henderson said the company is working on an “innovative new partnership” with eBay Inc. to let consumers in California bid on vehicles as they would in a normal eBay auction, or choose a “Buy it Now” option to purchase the car at a set price. Dealers would still distribute the cars.

A deal between eBay and GM hasn't been completed yet, however, and both sides say they have been in discussions.

GM spokesman John McDonald said the company sees the sales of new cars on eBay as an experiment that builds upon the existing partnership in used vehicles. Certified preowned vehicles from GM, along with other carmakers, are currently offered for sale on eBay Motors, eBay's online auto marketplace.

McDonald said GM is trying to get a deal done to start testing the new car sales on eBay in the “next couple of weeks.” His remarks lacked the certainty Henderson used in a statement earlier Friday, where he said the company will start the sales and other ideas with car dealers in the next few weeks.

McDonald also noted that some GM dealers already independently list vehicles on eBay, and said this experiment could be a way to bring other GM dealers on board.

The announcement comes as GM completed an unusually quick exit from bankruptcy protection on Friday with ambitions of making money and building cars people are eager to buy. Once the world's largest and most powerful automaker, new GM is now leaner, cleansed of massive debt and burdensome contracts that would have sunk it without federal loans.

eBay Motors allows users to buy and sell new and used cars either locally or nationally. The site also offers motorcycles, boats and auto parts and accessories.

In a statement, eBay Motors vice president Rob Chesney said “at this time, no plans have been finalized with General Motors.”

Chesney also said eBay was “excited about a potential new adventure that supports GM's dealers by expanding on how they already reach consumers through new approaches.”

It remains to be seen how any such deal will ultimately play out for the ailing automaker and the online marketplace operator.

RBC Capital Markets analyst Stephen Ju said bringing another name brand onto eBay may help it increase buyer confidence—something that the San Jose, California-based company has been trying to improve.

“For them it's all win-win,” he said. “A chunk of revenue is coming in your direction for helping GM sell autos on your platform. Why would you turn that down?”

eBay shares rose 21 cents to finish trading at \$16.30, while shares in Detroit-based GM shot up 31 cents, or 37.4 percent, to \$1.15.

to the car's better-than-usual handling for a compact family sedan.

We all marveled over the car's zippy acceleration, delivered via the Forte EX's 2-liter, 156-horsepower, inline four-cylinder engine. But we were more impressed with its fuel economy: 25 miles per gallon in the city and 34 miles per gallon on the highway run-

ning on regular unleaded gasoline.

The Forte's standard safety features, including four-wheel disc brakes and full-length head-curtain airbags, match those found in substantially more expensive cars. The same is true of the Forte's optionally available amenities, such as iPod, BlueTooth phone and MP3 player connectivity.

NUTS & BOLTS

BY WARREN BROWN
THE WASHINGTON POST

COMPLAINT

We had a disagreement on ride feel. Fellow reviewer Ria Manglapus thought it was too hard for a compact family car. My wife, Mary Anne, and I thought it was just right.

RIDE, ACCELERATION AND HANDLING

The disagreement on ride feel is noted above. We all liked the Forte EX's crisp handling and spirited acceleration.

HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT

Passionately ordinary—its looks are easy to love, hate or ignore.

BODY STYLE/LAYOUT

The Kia Forte is a compact, front-engine, front-wheel-drive family sedan with a traditional notchback trunk. It is available in six trim levels: base LX manual and LX automatic, mid-level EX manual and EX automatic, upscale SX manual and SX automatic.

ENGINE/TRANSMISSIONS

The tested Forte EX comes with a 2-liter, 16-valve, inline four-cylinder engine that develops 156 horsepower at 6,200 revolutions per minute and 144 foot-pounds of torque at 4,300 revolutions per minute. In the test car, that engine was linked to a five-speed transmission that could be shifted automatically or manually. A five-speed manual transmission is standard and more fuel-efficient when mated with available low-rolling-resistance tires.

CAPACITIES

There are seats for five people. Maximum luggage capacity is 14.7 cubic feet. The fuel tank holds 13.7 gallons of regular unleaded gasoline.

MILEAGE

The car lived up to its federal mileage rating of 25 miles per gallon in the city (traffic jams included) and 34 miles per gallon on the highway.

SAFETY

Standard equipment includes electronic stability and traction control, four-wheel disc brakes (ventilated front, solid rear) with antilock protection, side air bags for front-seat occupants, and front-to-rear head air bags.

PRICE

The base price for the tested 2010 Kia Forte EX is \$16,795. Dealer's invoice price on that model is \$16,000. Price as tested is \$19,890, including \$2,400 in options (five-speed automatic/manual transmission, power-operated glass roof, leather seat covering, 16-inch diameter wheels and low-rolling-resistance tires) and a \$695 transportation charge. Dealer's price as tested is \$18,785. Prices are sourced from Kia, Edmunds.com and Cars.com, an affiliate of The Washington Post.

PURSE-STRINGS NOTE

This one is easy. It's a buy.

CONCLUSION

The Forte offers so much good for so little money it can be called the Wal-Mart of Automobiles.



ALL-NEW SKYLINE CROSSOVER

Nissan Motor Co. Chief Operating Officer Toshiyuki Shiga stands next to the Japanese automaker's new Skyline Crossover in Tokyo Monday, July 13, 2009. Nissan announced the release of its all-new Skyline Crossover which goes on sale Monday.

AP

Life & Style

Overgrown with vegetation, a stone dharmasala, or rest house, lies outside one of the entrances to Banteay Chhmar.

THE WASHINGTON POST



BY GENE THORP —
THE WASHINGTON POST

Go beyond Cambodia's famous temples at Angkor and you can find ancient places that serve up solitude, wonder and inspiration.

THE WASHINGTON POST

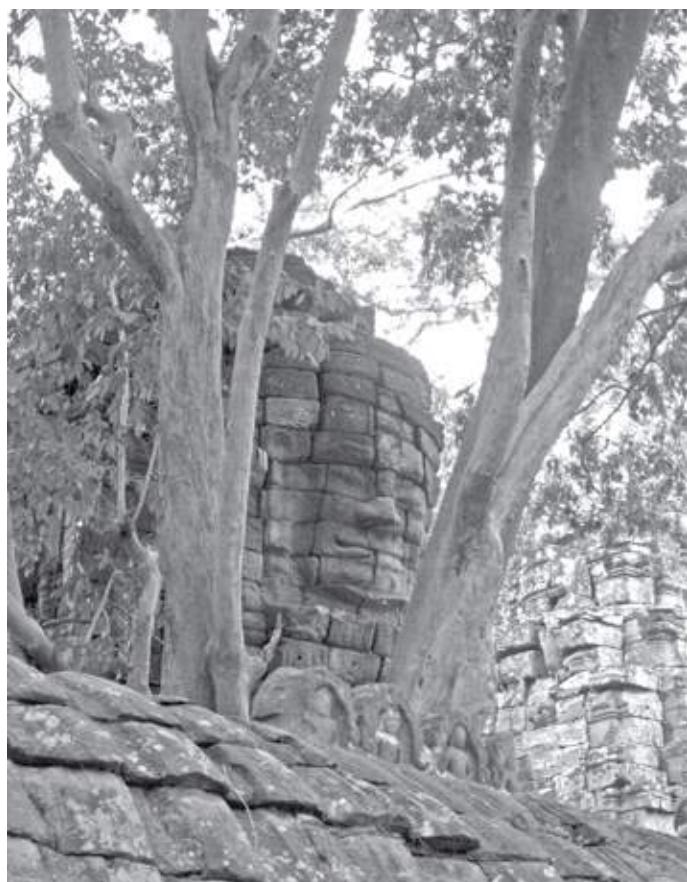
Cambodia's remote temple ruins worth the trek

By JOHN BURGESS
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

It's early on a Sunday morning in Cambodia, and I'm standing at a 12th-century moat. Traces of mist hover above the lotus leaves that dapple the water. Across a causeway, through a tumbled-down gate, lies Banteay Chhmar, one of the largest temples ever built by the ancient Khmer Empire. My friends and I are going to have the place all to ourselves.

We walk in. It turns out that we do end up sharing it, with a local man who brings his cows onto the grounds to graze. And with an affable mason who leads us across acres of fallen stone to see a message from the past, an inscription chiseled into the doorjamb of a holy tower. This kind of company we welcome.

Cambodia's great temples of Angkor, 65 miles away, have long since been rediscovered after a quarter-century of closure by war. They now draw more than a million foreign visitors a year, not a few of whom regret that so many other people had the same idea. At peak hours,



In the structure at the rear of the Banteay Chhmar temple, carved human features can still be discerned on one of the site's "face towers."

human traffic jams can form at temple steps once reserved for kings and priests.

But go beyond Angkor and you can find places that serve up the old solitude and sense of discovery. You can explore at your own pace, to the sounds of birds and the breeze that stirs the leaves overhead. In postcards and e-mails home, you will search for words worthy of your sentiments of wonder.

Banteay Chhmar is among the most spectacular of these places. Getting to it entails hours on very bumpy and dusty dirt roads. Staying the night means making do with primitive accommodations: candlelit rooms in local homes, bath water drawn from that same moat.

I stayed the night, and it turned out to really make the visit. The next morning I rose early, as everyone here does, and took a walk in clean country air. I passed mother hens foraging with their chicks, boys tending to a mud oven in which charcoal was being made. I was seeing not only a temple but a way of life.

Today several thousand people

—rice farmers, cattle herders, market vendors—make their homes on all four sides of the temple. They grow vegetables on the banks of a series of moats; they pile straw within the walls of lesser ancient buildings that dot their settlement. The ancient and present day coexist.

Spending time here also means doing a good turn, spreading a bit of wealth in a part of a war-recovering country that has largely missed out on the tourist dollars that Angkor is bringing in. People do have cellphones (charged by generator), and some have small tractors, but there are few other signs of affluence here.

Banteay Chhmar was created in the Khmer Empire's last great burst of construction, under the 12th-century Buddhist king Jayavarman VII. His engineers were thinking big even by Khmer standards: To contain a great settlement, they built earthworks and moats that formed a square measuring roughly one mile on each side. At its center, within another square moat system half a mile on each side, they built the temple.

More than a century ago, French archaeologist Etienne Aymonier found the temple to be in a state of "indescribable ruin." It still is, despite the efforts of that friendly mason, who is part of a small reconstruction team. But that's part of what makes the site so enticing. Exploring it means climbing over huge piles of large fallen stones, something to be tackled by only the sure-footed. We passed ruined towers, courtyards and ceremonial walkways. Sometimes the stones were so high that we were walking at roof level.

The temple is no longer a formal religious site, but Cambodians believe that it, like all those that their forebears left behind, remains a holy site. In one surviving chamber we found a small contemporary shrine, with a Buddha image wearing a cloth robe, where people made incense offerings. When rain is needed, local people are reported to walk in a procession around the temple, imploring heaven to help.

One of the best parts of this temple is the many hundreds of

See CAMBODIA on Page 19



Bodies sink into the watery depths during a naval battle depicted in temple bas-reliefs from the 12th century.

THE WASHINGTON POST

CAMBODIA

From Page 18

feet of bas-reliefs on its outer walls. We had to scramble up more stones to get a good view. Before us was a full sample of life 900 years ago: processions of elephants, prominent ladies tended by maids, children rough-housing, villagers in a sampan, servants tending a stove.

There were also many scenes of war with Champa, the long-vanished rival state to the east: The temple is in large part a memorial to four generals who lost their lives in that long conflict. On land, the men of arms go at one another fiercely with spears (you can identify the Chams by the curious blossom-shaped headdress they wear). On water, rows of men pull at oars from galleys as others strike at the enemy with spears. There are also images of the divine, notably the god Vishnu, with 32 arms arrayed like rays of light emanating from the sun.

The carving style is similar to that of the Bayon temple reliefs in Angkor. The difference is there's no need to fight for a view. We did cross paths for a few minutes our first day with a party of about 20 French-speaking tourists. We saw no other visitors that day or the next.

Late in the afternoon, we went for a look at what the ancient Khmers could do with water. Just east of the temple, they created a reservoir that measures roughly a mile by a half-mile. Academics disagree over whether this body, and others like it, did only symbolic duty as earthly stand-ins for the mythic Sea of Creation, or were part of a vast irrigation system, or both. Whatever the truth, I was awed by the scale. The tree line way, way off in the distance was the northern bank.

The reservoir was now largely dry, but because its floor is low and collects water before the surrounding land does, it has been divided into rice paddies. We went for a stroll, walking along paddy dikes to keep our feet dry. We said hello to members of a farming family who were tinkering with a small tractor. A woman had caught a bucketful of paddy crabs and insects, which she would sell as food. In the final daylight, we passed a group of young men bringing cattle home.

I passed the night at the house of a Cambodian family, friends of a friend. They couldn't have been more gracious. They gave me a room of my own, bottled water, mosquito coils and a big luxury: a car battery hooked to a fluorescent light. I could have light all night if I wanted it.

Other members of our party slept at a formal homestay, the term given to guesthouses as well as family homes that accept paying guests, a few steps from the temple's gate. It had two rooms with large beds covered by mosquito nets. Downstairs there was a basic bathroom with a squat toilet and scoop bath.

Staying the night brought another cultural experience. A festival was going on nearby, and its amplified music carried into my room as I sat reading. Then around 10 p.m., silence. Private generators don't run all night,

even for a celebration.

I got up at dawn, scoop-bathed in slightly murky water and walked to the moat from which it had been drawn. I took in the early morning sights: the mist, dogs prowling around in first light. I played amateur archae-

ologist for a bit, noting that an ancient feeder or outflow channel, now dry, was connected to the moat at this corner.

Later we went exploring on foot. Mixed in among wooden homes were the stone walls of lesser 12th-century relics that

had been monasteries or small temples. The ruins of one temple's gate lay foliage-shrouded just a few steps from a house. Little boys ran about, and a teenage girl ironed clothing.

We had breakfast at a stall in the town's market; there are no prop-

er restaurants. It was noodle soup with chicken, and very good.

I first visited Angkor in 1969. Back then, you could be alone in the big temples even there. I once walked through the largest of them, Angkor Wat, encountering hardly a soul. It's good

to know that such an experience can still be had. You just have to work a bit harder for it.

John Burgess is a former foreign correspondent for The Post. He last wrote for Travel about a country walk in Kent, England.

In Celebration of His New Life

Sgt. Francisco Litulumar Kaipat

Aka: "Ching Sofang" "Tiko"

D.O.B: March 9, 1955 • D.O.D: July 8, 2009 at the age of 54.

In his new life he now joins his:

Parents: †Mariano Borja Kaipat &

†Guadalupe Matagolai Litulumar Kaipat

Father In-law: †Antonio Tenorio Aldan

Grand children:

†Venancio Pangelinan Kaipat, †Mariano Pangelinan

†Kaipat, Hankie Ogumoro Kaipat, †Isaiah Ogumoro

Kaipat, †Cinclare Ogumoro Kaipat.

Brothers/ Sisters:

†Daniel Litulumar Kaipat, †Manuel Litulumar Kaipat,

†Maria Litulumar Kaipat,

†Aunora Litulumar Kaipat, †Joaquina Kaipat Ada.

†Francisco C. Ada, †Jose Tudela

God parents:

†Antonio/ †Monica Pua

His memorial will live forever in the hearts of his:

Wife: Jacinta Ayuyu Kaipat

Ryan James A./ Tarsila P. Kaipat (Johnson, James Roger,

Ryan Jr., Jasmeng Tyra)

Roy Roger A./ Rufina I. Kaipat (Leilis, Jester, Marilyn, Annalyn, Roy Jr.)

Roxanie Lynn Kaipat/ Joaquin T. Dowai (Dominic Zebedee, Manuel Enrique)

Christine Guadalupe Kaipat

Frankie Joe Kaipat

Brothers / Sisters and Family:

Antonio/ Celina C. Kaipat (Lynette/ Fred, Evelyn/

Lawrence, John, Antoinette, Pearl/ Shaun, Antonio II)

Diego/ Damiana O. Kaipat (Donna Jean/Jeffrey, Robin,

Diego Jr./ Kimberly, Sowmangeyong, Kerai Mario)

Clotilde/ Tobias C. Aldan (Jerome/ Antonia, Jennifer/ Dennis, Joylina/ Gus, Toby Jr./

Merced, Jocelyn/ Kevin)

Isabel/Dennis Davis (Cathleen/ Marvin, Jackson/ Kimberly, Dwayne)

Josepha L. Kaipat (Kyle/ Madoka, Daniel, Emerick),

Jose/ Marianne Kaipat (Cassandra, Leschiuto)

Ricardo/ Merselynn S. Kaipat (Guadalupe/ Myron, T.J., Iverson)

Emery/ Elizabeth K. Kaipat (Daniel, Emery Jr., Dimitri, Chantilly)

Brothers / Sisters In-laws: Piding/ Danny Guerrero (Lilian/ Robert, Joseph/ Lisa, Mark/ Joyce, Jesse/ Reselle,

Dean/ Rishana, MaryBeth/ Jeff)

Angie/ Manny Borja (Geraldine/ Frank, Bernadine/ Fernando, Esther/ Felix, Rosemary/

Vince, Stephanie/ Rufino)

William/ Bertha Ayuyu (Meagan/ Robert, Willina, Bernice)

Martin/ Edith Ayuyu (Martin Jr., Cheryl, Jacin)

Oscar/ Martha Ayuyu (Shrine, Joyce, Oscar Jr.)

Samuel/ Karen Aldan (Maggie, Kimberly, Samara, Kiana, Shanice, Sam Jr.)

Antonio/ Tina Aldan (Tintin, Devin)

Gina A. Aldan (Carmen, Britanny, Tanaia).

He also survived by numerous family members.

Holy rosary is being said at his parents residence in Paganville at 8pm. On Wednesday,

July 15, 2009 at 3pm., his remains will be escorted from CHC Chapel to Paganville for wake and viewing. On

Thursday July 16, 2009, Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at Kristo Rai at 10am

followed by his burial at the veterans cemetery in Marpi.

Olomwaay, Si Yu'us Maa'se, Thank You.

Ginen i Familia

'Bruno' sashays to box-office fame with \$30.4M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Gay Austrian fashion devotee Bruno has landed the No. 1 spot at the weekend box office, though it's uncertain how much staying power he has.

Sacha Baron Cohen's "Bruno" started big on opening day Friday but had a huge drop the rest of the weekend, with the Universal Pictures mock documentary finishing with \$30.4 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The movie took in nearly half of its weekend total—\$14.4 million—on Friday, then tumbled with just \$8.8 million Saturday and an estimated

\$7.2 million Sunday.

Revenues for hit movies typically go up on Saturday, so the nosedive for "Bruno" could be a sign that it lacks the shelf life that made Baron Cohen's "Borat" a \$100 million smash.

1. **"Bruno,"** \$30.4 million.
2. **"Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs,"** \$28.5 million.
3. **"Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen,"** \$24.2 million.
4. **"Public Enemies,"** \$14.1 million.
5. **"The Proposal,"** \$10.5 million.
6. **"The Hangover,"** \$9.9 million.
7. **"I Love You, Beth Cooper,"** \$5 million.
8. **"Up,"** \$4.7 million.
9. **"My Sister's Keeper,"** \$4.2 million.
10. **"The Taking of Pelham 1 2 3,"** \$1.6 million.

"It is unusual for a film to drop on Saturday. Normally, you expect the film at least to be even on Saturday or above compared to Friday, because Saturday is the biggest moviegoing day of

the weekend," said Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com. "It's going to be interesting to see how it does over the long run."

"Bruno," which features Baron Cohen as a wannabe going to extremes to achieve celebrity, finished ahead of 20th Century Fox's "Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs," which took second with \$28.5 million. The "Ice Age" sequel raised its domestic total to \$120.6 million.

Finishing third after two weekends in the No. 1 spot was Paramount's sci-fi blockbuster "Transformers: Revenge of the



Bummed about Bruno? Austrians 'get ueber it'

VIENNA (AP)—Austrians could be forgiven for bristling at "Bruno."

After all, the film character boasts that his fame is second only to Hitler's and says he just wants "to achieve zee Austrian dream—find a job, get a dungeon und raise a family in it."

Yet rather than recoil at British comedian Sacha Baron Cohen's new spoof about a flamboyantly gay Austrian fashionista, most Viennese are taking Bruno's own advice: "Get ueber it!"

Judging from a smattering of look-alike contests and Web sites cheerfully hawking skintight T-shirts and shorts, some even seem to be embracing their inner Bruno.

"We can all learn a lot from Bruno: style, zest for life, versatility, fearlessness," Doris Knecht, a columnist for the Kurier newspaper, wrote in her blog ahead of Universal Pictures' worldwide release Friday.

"This man is proud of his homeland, so we're proud of him," she said, proclaiming: "Austria has a new ambassador. Thanks, Bruno!"

Not everyone shares her enthusiasm—least of all a real ambassador: Emil Brix, Austria's top envoy to Britain.

In an interview with Austrian public broadcaster ORF aired Thursday, Brix denounced "Bruno" as "completely improper and unsuitable."

He said he found Baron Cohen's flippant references to Hitler and to Josef Fritzl—convicted in March of imprisoning his daughter for 24 years in a dungeon and fathering her seven children—cheap, crass and offensive.

"Everyone should speak out against such a thing," he said, warning that it will tarnish Austria's image.

ORF panned the film in a review. "A lot of expense for a few punch lines," it said.

Most Austrians, though, seem to be taking "Bruno" in stride.

They're used to being ridiculed for the country's past complicity with the Nazis, its flourishing far-right political fringe and the Fritzl affair, which came less than two years after a similar case involving a young woman who escaped after being held captive 8 1/2 years in an underground cell.

"We don't have talking robots or karate in our film," Wiczyl said. "For that increasingly small subset of films that don't have robots, we did terrific."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Final figures will be released Monday.

Actor Sacha Baron Cohen dressed as his character Bruno leaves a taping of "The Late Show with David Letterman" in New York, Tuesday, July 7, 2009.

"Fallen" with \$24.2 million, raising its domestic haul to \$339.2 million. The sequel passed the \$319 million total of 2007's "Transformers."

The weekend's other new wide release, 20th Century Fox's romantic comedy "I Love You, Beth Cooper" opened weakly with \$5 million, finishing at No. 7. The movie centers on a high school valedictorian who uses his graduation speech to declare his love for a bombshell classmate (Hayden Panettiere).

"Bruno" outpaced the \$26.5 million opening weekend for Baron Cohen's surprise 2006 hit "Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan." "Borat" started with \$9.2 million on opening day Friday then climbed to \$10.1 million Saturday, a sign that fans were talking it up to friends.

That good word-of-mouth propelled "Borat" to a long run at theaters, the movie climbing to a \$128.5 million domestic total.

"Borat" also scored its big opening weekend in far fewer theaters. "Bruno" debuted in 2,756 cinemas, more than three times the number for "Borat."

Nikki Rocco, head of distribution at Universal, said comedies such as "Bruno" typically drop off over opening weekend this time of year, while "Borat" opened in November, when audiences are less fickle than summer crowds.

The studio will have to wait until next weekend for a sense of how well "Bruno" can hold up for the long haul.

"I don't know. That crystal ball just isn't on my desk this

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Bruno

Fri. and Sat. 1:10 4:15 7:30 9:45
Sun. thru Thurs. 1:10 4:15 7:30

Sacha Baron Cohen, Gustaf Hammarsten
Comedy • Rated R

Synopsis

Borat trickster Sacha Baron Cohen returns to the big screen to offer yet another stinging dose of sociopolitical satire in this comedy that finds him assuming the persona of gay fashionmonger Bruno, the self-proclaimed "voice of Austrian youth TV." Originally conceived as part of Cohen's cult television series *Da Ali G Show*, the character of Bruno offered a cleverly costumed Cohen the opportunity to highlight the absurdities of the fashion industry by interviewing unsuspecting fashion icons and other haute couture hangers-on.



Ice Age: Dawn Of The Dinosaurs

Fri. and Sat. 1:20 4:30 7:25 9:30
Sun. thru Thurs. 1:20 4:30 7:25

John Leguizamo, Queen Latifah
Family-Oriented Adventure • Rated PG

Synopsis

After the events of *Ice Age: The Meltdown*, life begins to change for Manny and his friends: Scrat is still on the hunt to hold onto his beloved acorn, while finding a possible romance in a female sabre-toothed squirrel named Scratte. Manny and Ellie, having since become an item, are expecting a baby, which leaves Manny anxious to ensure that everything is perfect for when his baby arrives. Diego is fed up with being treated like a house-cat and ponders the notion that he is becoming too laid-back.



Public Enemies

Fri. and Sat. 1:25 4:20 7:05 9:50
Sun. thru Thurs. 1:25 4:20 7:05

Johnny Depp, Christian Bale
Crime Drama • Rated R

Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen

Fri. and Sat. 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
Sun. thru Thurs. 1:00 4:00 7:00

Shia LaBeouf, Megan Fox
Sci-Fi Action • Rated PG-13



My Sister's Keeper

Fri. and Sat. 1:30 4:25 7:20 9:55
Sun. thru Thurs. 1:30 4:25 7:20

Cameron Diaz, Abigail Breslin
Family Drama • Rated PG-13

The Proposal

Fri. and Sat. 1:15 4:10 7:15 9:40
Sun. thru Thurs. 1:15 4:10 7:15

Sandra Bullock, Ryan Reynolds
Romantic Comedy • Rated PG-13



BFF (Best Friends Forever)

Fri. and Sat. 1:05 4:05 7:10 9:35
Sun. thru Thurs. 1:05 4:05 7:10

Sharon Cuneta, Ai Ai Delas Alas
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Jackson, healthy or not? Depends on who's talking

LOS ANGELES (AP)—In his final days, Michael Jackson was robust and active. Or dangerously thin and frail. Begging for access to powerful prescription drugs. Or showing no signs of ever having used them.

It depends on who's talking.

A dizzying collection of puzzle pieces about Jackson's health and habits has come to light since his death on June 25. With as much as a month before a toxicology report determines the cause, more are sure to emerge.

Each is likely to fuel further speculation. None is sure to produce a satisfying conclusion.

Some who knew him even seem to contradict themselves.

Here's what's known so far:

■ During his final rehearsal at the Staples Center, Jackson was captured on video doing his signature moonwalk and dance spins. Randy Phillips, CEO of concert promoter AEG Live, told CNN he was "a healthy, vibrant human being."

■ Phillips later told ABC concert organizers feared that Jackson was losing weight and showing signs of wear and tear. He said he hired a staffer whose purpose was to remind Jackson to eat.

■ Dr. Arnold Klein, Jackson's



In this July 7, 2006 file photo, Dr. Conrad Murray poses for a photo as he opens the Acres Homes Cardiovascular Center at the Tidwell Professional Building, in Houston.

dermatologist, who said he last saw Jackson less than a week before he died, told CNN's Larry King that the singer was in "very good physical condition," in "a very good mood," and "was very happy."

■ Klein also told CNN that he had given Jackson the painkiller Demerol but warned him about using the powerful sedative Diprivan. He also confirmed that Jackson was a former drug addict who went to rehab in England.

■ "The Incredible Hulk" star

Lou Ferrigno, who was helping Jackson prepare for a planned series of London concerts, told The Associated Press that he never saw Jackson take drugs, act aloof or speedy, and the singer wasn't frail when he last saw him at the end of May. "I've never seen him look better," he said.

■ Two of Jackson's former confidants, medium Uri Geller and ex-bodyguard Matt Fiddes, said they tried in vain to keep the pop superstar from abusing prescription drugs. Geller said

he suffered a terrible falling-out with Jackson over the issue, but not before he had to "shout at Michael, to scream at Michael" in an effort to confiscate the singer's stocks of medication during his travels in England.

■ The drug Diprivan, an anesthetic widely used in operating rooms to induce unconsciousness, was found in Jackson's residence, a law enforcement official told the AP. Also known as Propofol, the drug is given intravenously and is very unusual to have in a private home.

■ Cherilyn Lee, a registered nurse, told the AP she repeatedly rejected his demands for Diprivan. But a frantic phone call she received from Jackson four days before his death made her fear that he somehow obtained Diprivan or another drug to induce sleep.

■ Akon, the Senegalese R&B singer and producer with whom Jackson recently recorded songs, told Billboard.com that "Michael is just one of the healthiest people that I know. He was pressuring me to stay healthy, like, 'Akon, eat right. What are you doing out there on the road? Are you eating? Are you exercising? Are you drinking a lot of water?'"

Comic Artie Lange charged with DUI in NJ



TOMS RIVER, N.J. (AP)—Comedian and radio personality Artie Lange has been charged with driving under the influence of an intoxicant and careless driving after a minor traffic accident in central New Jersey.

Toms River police say Lange's 2009 Nissan struck the rear of another vehicle around 1:30 p.m. Friday. Police say no one was injured and both vehicles had only minor damage.

Police say the respond-

ing officers' observations led to the 41-year-old Lange, of Roseland, being charged. He was taken to police headquarters for processing.

He was issued summonses and released pending a municipal court appearance on July 16. A police spokesman did not know if Lange had retained a lawyer.

Lange is a "Howard Stern Show" regular and recently wrote a best-selling book, "Too Fat to Fish."

In this July 7, 2006 file photo, Dr. Conrad Murray poses for a photo as he opens the Acres Homes Cardiovascular Center at the Tidwell Professional Building, in Houston.

Son takes over gospel singer Wright's NYC church

NEW YORK (AP)—Gospel singer Timothy Wright's son has been installed as pastor of his late father's New York City church.

David Wright became leader of the Grace Tabernacle

Christian Center Church of God in Christ during a service Sunday. The 30-year-old had been the Brooklyn church's music minister.

Family spokesman Will Bogle says several musical

groups participated in the installation, a poignant celebration for a congregation that has grappled repeatedly with loss in the last year.

The Rev. Timothy Wright died in April, nine months af-

ter being injured in a car crash near Loganton, Pa. The crash killed his wife and grandson as they returned from a Detroit conference.

Wright was known as the Godfather of Gospel. He received a 1994 Grammy nomination for his album "Come Thou Almighty King."



Former Led Zeppelin frontman Robert Plant, right, receives his CBE from Britain's Prince Charles during the investiture ceremony at Buckingham Palace in London Friday July 10, 2009.

Robert Plant honored with CBE

LONDON (AP)—Robert Plant received a royal honor from Prince Charles at Buckingham Palace on Friday, putting the former Led Zeppelin front man one notch above his old band mate Jimmy Page.

But, Plant joked he and Page would not be fighting over rank, even though Plant's new Commander of the British Empire is a higher honor than Page's Order of the British Empire.

"If we can remember each other's phone number at this time in life it's a miracle," he joked.

"We're still good friends, we both enjoy a rather dark sense of humor that comes, I think, from being from rather the wrong side of the tracks for all those wild years."

Plant opted not to take part in a Led Zeppelin reunion tour last year, choosing instead to concentrate on his collaboration with American bluegrass singer Alison Krauss.

Also receiving the CBE on Friday was English actress Liz Smith, 87, who appeared on the British TV series "The Royle Family."

Woman under man's thumb is a stranger to her friends

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: During college I had a great friend, "Julia." We were roommates and had several classes together. When I became engaged, Julia was my obvious pick for maid of honor. She did a very nice job, and I will be forever grateful.

After college, Julia met "Dirk." This man is a spoiled child who has kept Julia away from me and her other friends. Dirk controls their social calendar and is generally a jerk who complains if he doesn't get his way. Since meeting him, Julia has become distant and her warm personality has changed.

Julia and Dirk are being married, and I am Julia's matron of honor. I accepted because I felt forced to reciprocate and because Julia has alienated herself from all of her other friends. I feel awful for not being excited about my former close friend's wedding, but this isn't the girl I knew in college. She doesn't communicate with me often and is currently no longer on speaking terms with one particular bridesmaid.

Abby, how should I act at a wedding I don't agree with, celebrating a fair-weather friend and her jerk fiance?

DREADING IT IN N.Y.

DEAR DREADING IT: Has it occurred to you that Julia's personality has changed because she's involved with a control freak who has cut her off from everyone but you? You are calling her a fair-weather friend, but what kind of friend are you?

If you care at all about her, have a frank talk with her NOW. Tell her you are concerned because she has become isolated from all her friends and has distanced herself from you to such a degree that you're no longer comfortable participating in her wedding. It would be better than plastering on a smile and taking part in something you think is a charade.

As for reciprocity—you can stand up for her at her next wedding, because if her fiance is the jerk you describe him to be, this marriage won't last.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: How does one share the news of an impending divorce with friends and family? Due to our financial circumstances and the particularly amicable nature of our breakup, my husband and I still live together and we will probably continue this arrangement for a while, so there aren't a lot of obvious indicators.

I hate the thought of the news being passed through the local grapevine as nasty—and potentially untrue—gossip. How do other folks manage it?

SOON-TO-BE DIVORCEE IN LOUISIANA

DEAR SOON-TO-BE DIVORCEE: Here's how: by presenting a united front. The first people to hear the news should be your parents. Then inform other family members and friends. The message you need to convey is: "The two of us have agreed to end our marriage. While this may come as a surprise to all of you, our decision is mutual. While we care for each other and intend to remain friends, we no longer want to be husband and wife. If you love us as we know you do, please do not ask for further details because we both would rather not discuss it at this time."

If anyone should be insensitive enough to question you further, your response should be unanimous: "We'd rather not talk about it."

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

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By Bill Waterson

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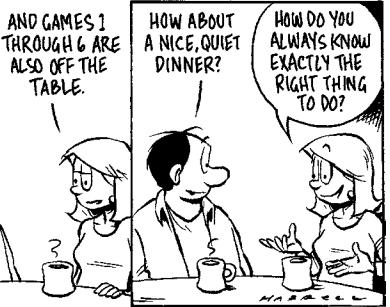
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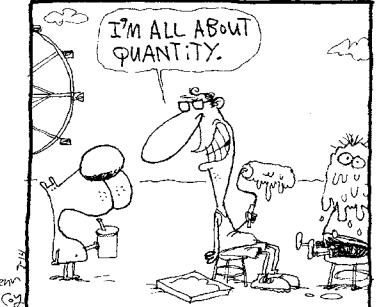
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pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the) FCD AD
Adoption of Nivon Trae) CIVIL ACTION
Demapan Aldan) NO. 09-0379
)
Minor Child) ORDER
) SHORTENING
By) TIME AND
) NOTICE OF
) HEARING
Raymond Cepeda Sablan)
Petitioner)

GOOD CAUSE APPEARING, It is hereby ordered that the time for notice of hearing for Petitioner(s) petition be shortened and that the hearing be set on July 16, 2009 at 1:30 P.M.

Dated this 10th day of July, 2009.

/s/ Kenneth L. Govendo
Judge

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Stricker captures John Deere Classic



SILVIS, Ill. (AP)—Steve Stricker followed one of his best performances with 36 solid holes to win the John Deere Classic by three strokes on Sunday.

Stricker, who tied the course record Saturday, fired a 7-under 64 in the fourth round after starting the day with a third-round 68 to finish at 264 for the tournament. That was good enough to give him his second PGA Tour win this year and sixth in all, not to mention a heavy dose of momentum heading into the British Open to go with the \$774,000 winner's check. He also moved to second behind Tiger Woods in the FedEx Cup standings.

Local favorite Zach Johnson (64, 66), Brandt Snedeker (68, 65) and Brett Quigley (62, 67) all tied for second at 17 under. Quigley also qualified for the British Open, but he won't be making the trip to Turnberry.

Instead, he's going to Milwaukee and will attend the memorial for golfer Chris Smith's wife Beth, who was killed last month in an auto crash that critically injured their two children.

"My heart's not into playing the British," said Quigley, who did not bring his passport.

Stricker's biggest challenge came from Tim Petrovic, who was in his group and was two strokes off the lead heading into the 36th and final hole of the day. But he hit the pond on No. 18 and double-bogeyed the hole, leaving him at 16 under along with Matt Jones (63, 69) and J.J. Henry (66, 68). Second-round leader Darren Stiles (70, 71) finished at 14 under.

A Wisconsin native and Illinois graduate, Stricker began the day three shots off the lead after he leaped into second place Saturday with a 61 that tied 2002 champion J.P. Hayes' course record and matched the lowest round of his career. Duplicating that would have been tough. He'll take this, though.

His approach to the 13th green in the



Steve Stricker, of Madison, Wis., holds the trophy after winning the John Deere Classic golf tournament at TPC Deere Run on Sunday, July 12, 2009, in Silvis, Ill.

AP

fourth round stopped three feet from the cup, setting up a birdie that put him at 19 under, but he just missed two birdie putts on the 15th and 16th holes. His 11-footer on No. 15 rolled around the rim, and his 12-footer on the par-3 16th stopped a few inches from the cup. Stricker finally went to 20 under on the par-5 17th, tapping in for birdie after his 50-footer hit the rim.

His best shot was when he holed out from the fairway for an eagle on the par-4 No. 6 in the fourth round, his 98-yard shot

clearing a bunker and landing in the cup to put him at 17 under. That tied him for the lead with Johnson, who was off the course long before Petrovic and Stricker.

A tournament board director who grew up just over an hour away in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Johnson hadn't fared particularly well in seven previous appearances. His highest finish was a tie for 20th in 2004.

"This place has really done a lot for me," he said. "John Deere gave me two sponsors exemptions. Now, I'm on the

board of the tournament. I come here because I love the golf course for sure, family, friends."

Thousands cheered every shot as he made his way up the leaderboard, even simple par putts. And when he was finally finished after 36 holes, he waved his white cap as he walked off the ninth green.

"Golf is a game of confidence," Johnson said. "It's a totally different golf course, but I'm hitting the ball solid and reading my lines."

TARBES, France (AP)—With the Pyrenees behind him but the toughest rides still to come, Lance Armstrong is already talking about another run next year in the Tour de France.

The 37-year-old Texan, coming out of 3 1/2 years of retirement, remained in third place after Sunday's ninth stage. Astana teammate Alberto Contador stayed in second place with about one-third of the race over and Rinaldo Nocentini of Italy held the yellow jersey a third straight day.

Armstrong rode deliberately during the 100-mile leg that was won by France's Pierick Fedriga and took cyclists from Saint-Gaudens to Tarbes and through the Roman Catholic shrine town of Lourdes.

"Today was pretty controlled, I thought, although it's never easy," Armstrong said. "It was very hot; the tempo was pretty regular ... We (Astana) just sat there and kind of rode our race."

The seven-time champion's appetite for competition clearly is not satisfied. After the day's racing, he was asked on French television if this would be his last year in cycling's premier race.

"Probably not," he said. "Maybe one more Tour."



mention Armstrong or team dissent.

Contador and Armstrong remained second and third for the third day in a row. Contador is six seconds behind Nocentini and Armstrong is eight seconds back.

Fedriga and Italy's Franco Pellizotti kept the lead for most of the stage after surging in front with a bunch of breakaway riders before the 12-mile mark. They crossed the Tourmalet Pass more than five minutes ahead of the peloton.

They held on despite 42 miles remaining between the peak and the finish.

The main contenders were happy to let them go—Pellizotti was 15:23 off the race lead and Fedriga 40:17 behind overall as the stage began.

Levi Leipheimer of the United States follows Armstrong in the standings, 39 seconds behind Nocentini, giving their Kazakh squad the second, third and fourth spots.

Among other favorites, Christian Vande Velde of the U.S. is eighth, 1:24 behind; Andy Schleck of Luxembourg is 1:49 back in ninth; defending Tour champion Carlos Sastre of Spain is 2:52 back in 16th; and Cadel Evans of

Australia is 3:07 back in 18th place.

Armstrong predicts the next shakeout will come in Stage 15, when riders head from Pontarlier, France, to the Swiss ski resort of Verbier, featuring an uphill finish.

"Now we're going to have three or four days that probably won't change the classification," he said. "I think all of the favorites are considering that Verbier is the next big test."

The three-week Tour has its first rest day Monday. It then cuts a swathe from central to northeast France in the second week before entering the Alps in the final week before the July 26 finish in Paris. The turning point could come on the next-to-last race day up the fabled Mont Ventoux, which Armstrong has called the toughest climb in France.

"I think this race is going to get a lot harder, and our team won't look the same or feel the same as it does now," he said. "It's still too close."

"Honestly, if I was Cadel Evans, or Andy Schleck, or Carlos Sastre, I would be waiting," he added. "I would wait for my moment in the Alps, on Ventoux, whatever, and I would stick it in as hard as I could. I would just pull the knife out and go."

No surprise: Heat tell Wade they want him to stay

MIAMI (AP)—When Dwyane Wade checked his cell phone shortly after midnight Sunday, he got perhaps the most predictable text message of his life.

After all, it hardly classifies as stunning news that the Miami Heat want to keep him.

Wade said Heat president Pat Riley texted those sentiments very early Sunday, in what amounts to a largely ceremonial move. The Heat had to wait until 12:01 a.m. on July 12 before they could formally offer an extension to the reigning NBA scoring champion, and Wade said Riley didn't wait too long before pressing the send button.

"It's no rush," Wade said. "We all know that."

Wade didn't reveal specifics of what the text message said, other than confirming the obvious, that Riley was reaffirming Miami's hope that the 2006 NBA finals MVP sticks around for many years to come.

"Something like that," Wade said, moments before he and Alonzo Mourning capped the five-day Zo's Summer Groove fundraising series with a charity game featuring other NBA standouts like Caron Butler, Chris Paul, Carmelo Anthony and Wade's Miami teammates Udonis Haslem, Michael Beasley, Daequan Cook, Mario Chalmers and Dorell Wright.

Wade's agent, Henry Thomas, and Riley both confirmed that the Heat formally extended an offer. Both declined further comment.

Wade, who can become a free agent after this coming season, essentially has two options: Accept an extension that would keep him under contract in Miami through the summer of 2014, or opt out of his deal next year and seek a contract through 2015-16, one that would likely be worth up to \$45 million more.

Later this summer, Wade said he and Riley will talk more about the particulars, but nothing has been scheduled. Wade is still formulating his plans for the remainder of the offseason, and is likely headed to China for some business meetings in the coming weeks.

"We'll get it set up when we all can get together," Wade said.

His future has been the subject of much discussion, particularly in recent days, after Wade did a series of interviews promoting the charity events he and Mourning were hosting. Wade has repeatedly said he is happy in Miami, but merely wants to see the team get better and an assurance that Miami will perennially try to be a championship contender before re-signing.

"Like I said, I'm good here. I'm happy here," Wade said. "This is where I want to be and we'll go from there."

Wade set career bests last season in scoring average (30.2 per game), 3-point goals (88), steals (2.2 per game), blocks (1.3 per game) and games played (79).

Thomas said he and Wade will weigh "a number of options" before deciding which course of action makes the most sense.

"It's great and I feel very honored and blessed, first of all, to make it to the NBA but then to be in position where I'm on my third contract now and have a team want you and be a big part of the future," Wade said. "That's a testament in itself. It's phenomenal."

Lackey holds down Yankees and Angels sweep



ANAHEIM, California (AP)—John Lackey pitched seven solid innings as the

Los Angeles Angels completed a sweep of the New York Yankees with a 5-4 victory in the American League on Sunday.

Lackey (4-4) quickly worked through the Yankees lineup, allowing two runs on six hits. The Angels' ace struck out six in one of his most efficient starts since missing the first six with a forearm strain.

Mariners 5, Rangers 3

At Seattle, pinch-hitter Chris Shelton and Rob Johnson hit consecutive RBI singles with two out in the seventh inning to lead Seattle past Texas.

All-Star Ichiro Suzuki had two hits and drove in a run for the Mariners, raising his batting average to .362 and extending his hitting streak to 11 games.

Red Sox 6, Royals 0

At Boston, Josh Beckett capped a brilliant first half of the season with a three-hitter, joining teammate Tim Wakefield as the only 11-game winners in the AL as Boston blanked Kansas City.

Beckett (11-3) retired the first nine batters, five on strikeouts, and picked up his 100th career victory. It was his second shutout and complete game of the season following his 3-0 win over Atlanta on June 20.

Orioles 4, Blue Jays 2

At Baltimore, Brad Bergesen took a shutout into the seventh inning and Brian Roberts had two RBIs as Baltimore ended a miserable road trip for Toronto.

Oscar Salazar homered and Roberts also scored a run for the Orioles. Baltimore has won six of its last nine series and trails the fourth-place Blue Jays by only three games in the AL East.

Twins 13, White Sox 7

At Minneapolis, Carlos Gomez drove in a career-high five runs as Minnesota had an unusually productive game against Chicago ace pitcher Mark Buehrle.

Buehrle (9-3) gave up eight runs and 10 hits in 3 1-3 innings, his shortest outing of the season.

Athletics 7, Rays 3

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Orlando Cabrera hit a tiebreaking RBI single in Oakland's four-run seventh inning as Oakland beat Tampa Bay.

Kurt Suzuki and pinch-hitter Jack Cust each singled in a run and Mark Ellis drove in Landon Powell with a groundout to set up Cabrera's hit off Chad Bradford that made it 4-3. Suzuki and Ellis each drove in two runs.

Tigers 10, Indians 1

At Detroit, Clete Thomas drove in five runs and Brandon Inge homered twice as Detroit trounced Cleveland.

All-Star Justin Verlander (10-4) pitched seven shutout innings, allowing five hits and three walks. He struck out eight, giving him 149 for the season—the most by a Tiger pitcher at the All-Star break since Mickey Lolich had 156 in 1972.

Dodgers 7, Brewers 4

At Milwaukee, All-Star Orlando Hudson homered twice and Clayton Kershaw won his fifth consecutive road start as the Los Angeles Dodgers capped the best first half in the majors with a victory over the Milwaukee Brewers.

Manny Ramirez went 3 for 3 and scored twice to help the Dodgers finish a 6-3 road trip for their best start in 32 years at 56-32.

Backup catcher Brad Ausmus also homered and James Loney drove in two runs with two singles.

Rockies 8, Braves 7

At Denver, All-Star Brad Hawpe hit a game-ending RBI double as Colorado rallied from four runs down in the last three innings to beat Atlanta.

Seth Smith set up Hawpe's clutch hit with a one-out single off Luis Valdez (0-1), who was making his major league debut. After Garrett Atkins flied out, Hawpe lined a 1-1 pitch into right-center to score Smith from first and give the Rockies a split of the four-game series.



AP
Los Angeles Angels starting pitcher John Lackey throws to the plate during the first inning of a baseball game against the New York Yankees on Sunday, July 12, 2009, in Anaheim, Calif.

Cubs 7, Cardinals 3, 1st game

Cardinals 4, Cubs 2, 2nd game

At Chicago, Ryan Ludwick hit a pair of two-run homers and Adam Wainwright pitched eight strong innings as St. Louis salvaged a split by beating Chicago in the second game of a day-night double-header.

Wainwright (10-5) improved to 3-0 against the Cubs this season, and Ryan Franklin earned his 21st save. Randy Wells (4-4) took the loss.

In the opener, Chicago's Carlos Zambrano (5-4) homered for the third time this season and earned a win with six solid innings. Micah Hoffpauir hit a three-run homer for the Cubs.

Phillies 5, Pirates 2

At Philadelphia, Pedro Feliz hit a first-inning grand slam, and J.A. Happ allowed one run over seven innings to help Philadelphia down Pittsburgh.

The Phillies, who won their fifth straight, scored five times in the first off rookie Virgil Vazquez (1-3).

Marlins 8, Diamondbacks 1

At Phoenix, All-Star Josh Johnson blanked Arizona through six innings and Cody Ross drove in three runs with a pair of doubles for Florida.

Jeremy Hermida hit a two-run homer off the right-field foul pole and NL batting leader Hanley Ramirez singled three times as the Marlins entered the All-Star break two games above .500, four games behind first-place Philadelphia in the NL East.

Mets 9, Reds 7

At New York, Gary Sheffield had three RBIs and Daniel Murphy drove in two runs to spark New York's best offensive game in weeks.

Hoffman, Pena, Duke added to All-Star teams

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Trevor Hoffman was supposed to take his sons fishing. Instead, they're all headed back to the All-Star game.

The career saves leader was a late addition to the National League squad, joining Pittsburgh pitcher Zach Duke and Tampa Bay first baseman Carlos Pena as players picked Sunday to replace All-Stars unable to participate Tuesday night.

Hoffman, in his first season with the Milwaukee Brewers, will substitute for Los Angeles Dodgers closer Jonathan Broxton, who has an injured toe.

"You relish the opportunity," Hoffman said. "You don't know how often these come along."

The 41-year-old reliever said his sons—Brody, Quinn and Wyatt—didn't mind dad's sudden change of All-Star break plans from fishing for three days in Wisconsin to a jam-packed trip to St. Louis.

"My kids are really excited. They've gotten older and been to quite a few, but they're starting to understand the dynamics that are part of it," Hoffman said. "It was a pretty easy sell."

Duke also was added to the NL staff. He replaces San Francisco starter Matt Cain, who took a line drive off his right arm Saturday night.

Pena takes the AL roster spot of Boston second baseman Dustin Pedroia, elected by fans to start. His wife, Kelli, is seven months pregnant and has been in the hospital since Monday with complications.

"It's pretty tough. Obviously, I've got to be with my wife right now. That's more important," Pedroia said. "I'm extremely honored to be selected by the fans. I wish I could be there but I hope everybody understands."

American League manager Joe Maddon of the Tampa Bay Rays said Toronto's Aaron Hill will start at second in place of Pedroia, last year's league MVP.

"I hope that everything is OK with his family," Pena said. "Obviously, that's the most important thing."

The addition of Pena means Tampa Bay's entire infield is on the team, including third baseman Evan Longoria, shortstop Jason Bartlett and second baseman Ben Zobrist.

The last club to put four infielders in the All-Star game was the 2002 New York Yankees, with first baseman Jason Giambi, second baseman Alfonso Soriano, shortstop Derek Jeter and third baseman Robin Ventura.

The Philadelphia Phillies,

who beat Tampa Bay in the World Series last year, are sending all three outfielders to the Midsummer Classic: Raul Ibanez, Shane Victorino and Jayson Werth.

"I'm extremely humbled by this opportunity," Pena said. "What I like is the fact that I was chosen by my own manager. That's what means the most to me. I want to experience the whole thing. I'm thrilled."

Maddon chose Pena over Rangers second baseman Ian Kinsler, left off the All-Star team despite excellent statistics.

Pena was leading the league with 24 homers. He will take part in the Home Run Derby on Monday night, rounding out an AL field that also includes Minnesota's Joe Mauer, Detroit's Brandon Inge and Texas' Nelson Cruz.

"I would have to believe that anyone leading the league in hitting home runs normally belongs in the All-Star game," Maddon said. "The fact he hadn't been on the team yet was bothering me just a little bit."



Swinging for the Busch Stadium fences from the National League will be four powerful first basemen: St. Louis' Albert Pujols, Philadelphia's Ryan Howard, Milwaukee's Prince Fielder and San Diego's Adrian Gonzalez.

Hoffman signed a \$6 million, one-year contract with the Brewers after spending most of his career in San Diego. He was 1-1 with a 2.05 ERA and had converted 20 of 22 save chances after securing career save No. 574 on Saturday night in a 6-3 win over the Dodgers.

It is Hoffman's seventh All-Star selection.

"I don't know if it's really sunk in yet," he said. "There's some satisfaction in knowing there hasn't been a drop-off."

Broxton was set to make his first appearance, but has an irritated nerve on his right toe and needed a shot. He is 6-0 with a 3.10 ERA and 20 saves, but had given up five runs in his last two appearances. The right-hander is expected to attend the festivities in St. Louis.

Duke, an All-Star for the first time, is 8-8 with a 3.29 ERA and three complete games. The left-hander joins Pirates teammate Freddy Sanchez on the NL squad.

A Giants spokesman said X-rays of Cain's pitching arm showed no significant damage and the injury was diagnosed as a bruise.

Also a first-time All-Star, Cain is 10-2 with a 2.38 ERA.

MAFEA snaps slide, Bayani recovers

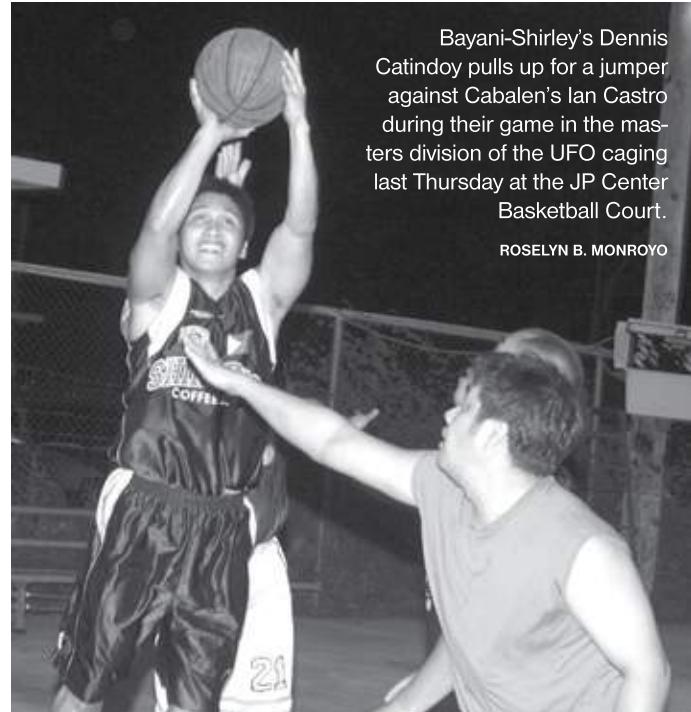
By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roeslyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

MAFEA - Bank of Saipan ended its two-game losing skid, while Bayani-Shirley's regained its form after posting contrasting wins in the masters division of the 7th United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Basketball League last Thursday night at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan.

MAFEA had a 0-2 start in the league and finally entered the win column after thumping MDX Armatech, 96-81, in the second game of the night. In the curtain raiser, Bayani recovered from a loss to Boholanos via an 83-77 triumph over Cabalen.

After trailing early in the game, 19-22, MAFEA outgunned MDX in the second period, 33-16, to grab the driver's seat at halftime, 52-38. Danny Illahi and Warren Villegas teamed up in MAFEA's second-quarter scoring run, firing eight markers each.

The rest of MAFEA players stepped up in the second half to keep the double-digit lead and



Bayani-Shirley's Dennis Catindoy pulls up for a jumper against Cabalen's Ian Castro during their game in the masters division of the UFO caging last Thursday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

take a 15-point win.

MAFEA had six players finishing in double figures with Alex Ocampo leading the way with 17 points. Gilbert Espinosa and Illahi added 13 each, Villegas chipped in 12, and Boy Garcia and Edsel Delfin contributed 11 apiece.

A depleted MDX crew failed to keep pace with MAFEA in the second half. Bernardo Montano top-scored for MDX with 19 points, while Roger Valen-

cia nailed 13, making most of his points when the game was already decided in the fourth period. Nelson Samson tallied 12, but was held to two points in the second half, while Sonny Ebuan added 10.

With the loss MDX dropped to a 1-3 slate.

Bayani improved to a 3-1 record for solo second place behind the undefeated Boholanos (2-0).

2006 and 2008 and had his closest shot at the title in 2007 when he placed runner-up to Talavera. Omechelang lost the deciding Game 2 in the 2007 finals, 189-211.

With his triumph this year, Omechelang went home with a trophy and \$800 cash. Manacop and Zapanta also took trophies and cash prizes. PBA awarded cash prizes, too to the Top

10 finishers, namely Teodoro (fourth), Talavera (fifth), Tony Verdaguer (sixth), Mario Mayuga (seventh), Raul Dumapit (eighth), Alex Cacdac (ninth), and Ronald Epan (10th).

Delos Reyes drilled 11 of his total points and went 4-for-5 from the foul line to foil Cabalen's repeated comeback bids. Tabora added eight to hand Cabalen back-to-back losses.

First Game

Bayani 83 - Tabora 32, Delos Reyes 28, Palma 9, Carino 5, Zapata 4, Manipon 2.

Cabalen 77 - Mina 22, Fernandez 12, Pacheco 11, Castro 10, Culala 6, Andales 5, Alegre 4, Basa 2, Abuan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 25-21, 42-37, 61-59, 83-77.

Second Game

MAFEA 96 - Ocampo 17, Espinosa 13, Illahi 13, Villegas 12, Garcia 11, Delfin 11, Yalung 6, Surima 4, Darag 4, Quemado 3, Buniag 2.

MDX 81 - Montano 19, Valencia 13, Samson 12, Ebuen 10, Sublemente 8, Canedo 7, Malasarte 5, Dela Cruz 3.

Scoring by quarters: 19-22, 52-38, 74-58, 96-81.

PERCY

From Page 28

newly crowned PBA Bowler of the Year was a qualifier in

STAAL

From Page 28

as my body is immersed in water, and I focus on the race and nothing else," Staal said.

This will be the first time that Staal will be competing in the World Championships and he is honored to have the opportunity to represent the CNMI in the biennial meet.

"Being one of the four swimmers chosen to go to this world class meet is a great honor and opportunity. It is very important that I know that this is not just a free trip, but a trip that

many people have worked hard to make happen," said Staal, who will go to Rome with fellow Tsunami Saipan swimmers Shin Kimura, Rezne Wong, and Cooper Graf.

"When I hear World Championships, I think of the gathering of all the most outstanding athletes in aquatic sports to compete and demonstrate their skill on the highest level. It is their hard work and determination that brought them to where they are right now and it will be a great experience to learn by watching and competing against them. It will be absolutely inspiring to see their devotion to

the sport come into action in a race. I am very excited," the 16-year-old swimmer added.

Stall will be competing in the 50m butterfly, 100m breaststroke, 50m and 100m freestyle, and 50m backstroke events and he is hoping to do well in sprint races.

"My favorite event at the meet will be the 50 meter freestyle. This is because I love sprinting, and being able to race against some of the fastest swimmers in the world will be amazing, but scary," he said.

Staal holds several CNMI mark in the 13 to 14 and 15 to 16 age groups and is hoping for more

record-breaking swims in Rome.

"Besides the records, I also aim to obtain valuable learning experience and inspiration to train harder. I do not expect to be nearly as fast as the best athletes in the world, but I hope that I can hold my own and learn from them," Staal said.

He added when he gets home, he wants to share whatever he learns from the world meet.

"I want to take back all the knowledge and experience I will gain, and help pass it on to the swimmers who didn't get the opportunity to go," the Saipan International School student said.

bassadors show since 1998.

"She has enthusiastically served as a role model for young girls who find themselves empowered by witnessing a woman directing a team of men players as well as competing against and beating male opponents."

Moss added that Majic has had an impact not only in the United States, but in 19 foreign countries, including areas where gender equity in athletics and in life is not a popular topic.

He added that Majic has also served her country by entertaining its men and women in military service. She has performed more than 300 events at over 120 bases in all service branches including multiple tours to entertain the U.S. mili-

tary stationed overseas.

"Throughout her touring with the Harlem Ambassadors, she has promoted greater understanding between the races while encouraging young people to make the positive choice of staying in school and staying off drugs," he said.

The online petition is calling on the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame's Board of Directors to select Majic for induction as both a player and a contributor.

On Saipan and Tinian, Majic and her Harlem Ambassadors were watched by sell-out crowds when they played local all-star teams in 2001 and 2007. Majic and company also hosted clinics for aspiring eagles a day or two before their big shows.

HALL

From Page 28

A native of New Jersey, she was the most valuable player of the New Jersey State Girls Basketball Tournament while leading Clifford J. Scott High School to the state title.

Majic starred collegiately at the University of Missouri where she was a member of the Tigers' Big Eight championship team. She has coached on the high school (her alma mater Scott), college (Upsala College), and professional (Harlem Ambassadors) levels.

She has also spent the summers playing in the rugged New York City outdoor leagues in-

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	54	34	.614	—
New York	51	37	.580	3
Tampa Bay	48	41	.539	6 1/2
Toronto	44	46	.489	11
Baltimore	40	48	.455	14

Central Division

Detroit	48	39	.552	—
Chicago	45	43	.511	3 1/2
Minnesota	45	44	.506	4
Kansas City	37	51	.420	11 1/2
Cleveland	35	54	.393	14

West Division

Los Angeles	49	37	.570	—
Texas	48	39	.552	1 1/2
Seattle	46	42	.523	4
Oakland	37	49	.430	12

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	48	38	.558	—
Florida	46	44	.511	4
Atlanta	43	45	.489	6
New York	42	45	.483	6 1/2
Washington	26	61	.299	22 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis	49	42	.538	—
Milwaukee	45	43	.511	2 1/2
Houston	44	44	.500	3 1/2
Chicago	43	43	.500	3 1/2
Cincinnati	42	45	.483	5
Pittsburgh	38	50	.432	9 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	56	32	.636	—
San Francisco	49	39	.557	7
Colorado	47	41	.534	9
Arizona	38	51	.427	18 1/2
San Diego	36	52	.409	20

Yesterday's Games

Detroit	10	Cleveland	1
Boston	6	Kansas City	0
Baltimore	4	Toronto	2
Oakland	7	Tampa Bay	3
Minnesota	13	Chicago White Sox	7
L.A. Angels	5	N.Y. Yankees	4
Seattle	5	Texas	3
Chicago Cubs	7	St. Louis	3
St. Louis	4	Chicago Cubs	2
N.Y. Mets			

7th Annual Miller Lite Marianas Cup Slow-pitch Softball Qualifier

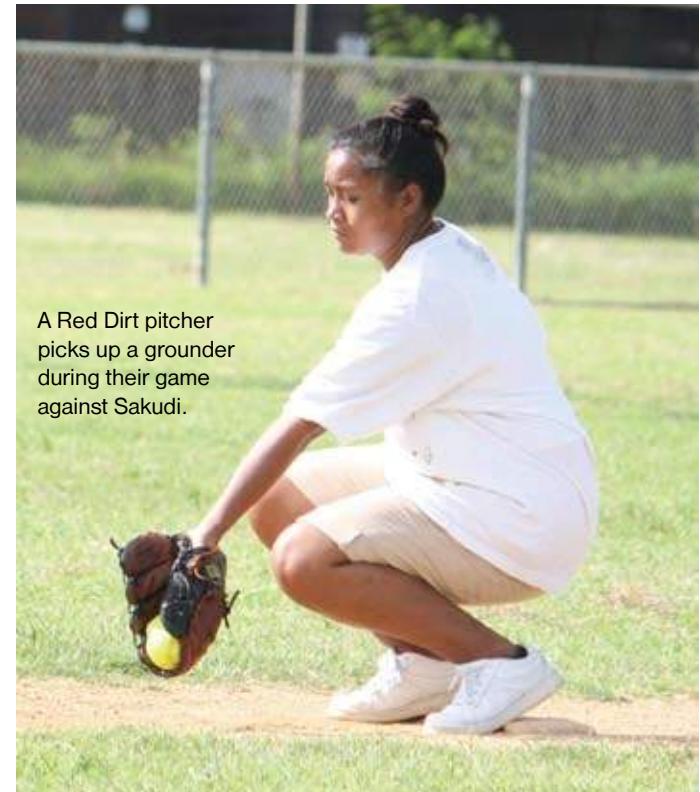
PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



A Sufa pitcher delivers a pitch during their game against Che'lus in the first round of the 7th Annual Miller Lite Marianas Cup Slow-pitch Softball Qualifier at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield.



Che'lus' shortstop Poland Masaharu throws to second base.



A Red Dirt pitcher picks up a grounder during their game against Sakudi.



Sakudi's Janice Camacho waits for the pitch during their game against Red Dirt in the women's division last Saturday.



A Sakudi batter swings during the top of the third inning of their game against Red Dirt.



A Che'lus runner returns to third base after his teammate flied out to center.



A Sufa runner is safe, as a Che'lus second baseman still waits for the ball.



Che'lus' John Maraita pitches against a Sufa batter.



A Red Dirt outfielder picks up the ball during the top of the second inning of their game against Sakudi.



MAFEA snaps slide, Bayani recovers

MAFEA-Bank of Saipan ended its two-game losing skid, while Bayani-Shirley's regained its form after posting contrasting wins in the masters division of the 7th United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Basketball League. **26**

Saipan Tribune Sports

28 TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2009



Stricker captures John Deere Classic

Steve Stricker followed one of his best performances with 36 solid holes to win the John Deere Classic by three strokes on Sunday.

24

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Percy finally wins PBA Bowler of the Year plum

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Veteran kegler Percy Omechelang hoisted his first PBA Bowler of the Year after stunning Simon Manacop in the finals of the 2009 Philippine Bowling Association-Budweiser Bowler of the Year Tournament last Sunday at the Saipan Bowling Center in San Jose.

Omechelang, who faltered in his three previous attempts at the PBA plum, was seeded second in the stepladder finals and

had to win twice in the championship match to pull off an upset

over the No. 1 seed Manacop.

A 174-164 win in Game 1 allowed Omechelang to force Game 2. Omechelang played even better in the deciding game, knocking down 195 pins against Manacop's 164 to secure the 2009 PBA Bowler of the Year award.

Five of the 24 keglers who qualified for the nine-game roll-off advanced to the stepladder finals. Joining Manacop and Omechelang were Raymond



Percy Omechelang poses for *Saipan Tribune* after receiving the 2009 PBA Bowler of the Year trophy during an awards ceremony last Sunday at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Zapanta, 2006 and 2007 PBA Bowler of the Year Robert Talavera, and Lito Teodoro.

Manacop tallied 1,859 pinfalls in nine games for an average of 206.56 pinfalls to automatically gain the first finals seat. He scored more than 200 pinfalls in six of the nine games.

Omechelang logged more than 200 pinfalls in five of the nine games, showing his best form in Game 6 after posting 247 pinfalls. He totaled 1,853 pinfalls for an average of 205.89 pinfalls per game and claimed an outright semis ticket.

Zapanta recorded 1,838 pinfalls and an average of 204.22 to finish third in the qualifier. Talavera was fourth with his 1,802 pinfalls and 200.22 average, while Teodoro notched the fifth spot with his 1,769 pinfalls and 196.56 average. The three battled for the last semis slot with Zapanta winning after carding 234 pinfalls against Talavera's 191 and Teodoro's 195.

In the semifinals, Zapanta was pitted against Omechelang with the latter advancing to the finals after a close 202-196 victory.

Omechelang continued his winning ways in the finals against Manacop to take the PBA Bowler of the Year trophy that eluded him in 2007. The

See PERCY on Page 26

Sakudi, Kulan Zamu Gear lead Marianas Cup softball

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Sakudi recorded the most lopsided win so far in the 7th Annual Miller Lite Marianas Cup Slow-pitch Softball Qualifier after blanking Red Dirt, 33-0, last Saturday at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield.

The win was second in a row for Sakudi, which debuted in the qualifier with a 20-2 whipping of Kagmag Saulak on June 27.

Sakudi started the game with a 12-run top of the first with only one player from its batting line-up failing to reach home plate. Third baseman Kuki Pangelinan and Bert Camacho led Sakudi's hot start, hitting a two-run homer and two-run single to centerfield in the first inning, respectively.

See SAKUDI on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Kai Staal, seen here joining the 100m freestyle swim of one local tournament early this year, will be competing in the World Championships for the first time later this month.

Staal is at home in water

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Last of a four-part series

Olympic medalist Aleksandr Popov once said "The water is your friend. You don't have to fight with water, just share the same spirit as the water, and it will help you move."

This holds true to Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's Kai Staal, who admitted his nervousness will intensify when he competes in the 13th FINA World Championships in Rome, Italy, but he knows



saying, 'take your mark,' and the final 'beep' before I dive

in. It is like that at almost every meet I have been to. But when I hit the water, I feel completely at ease. Every stressed and frightened feeling I have goes away, as soon

See STAAL on Page 26

Hall of Fame petition for Majic on

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



An online petition to induct two-time CNMI visitor Lade Majic to the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame is ongoing at the GoPetition website (<http://www.gopetition.com/online/29100.html>)

Majic, who played exhibition games on Saipan and Tinian with her touring Harlem Ambassadors team in 2001 and 2007, is known to her fans as Queen of Show Basketball.

Aside from the lead show player of Harlem Ambassadors, Majic also is the team's head coach and vice president of basketball operations.

According to the Harlem Ambassadors website, Majic has played more show basketball games than any woman in history.

See HALL on Page 26

Harlem Ambassadors lead show player Lade Majic shows off the Rocball T-shirt given to her by Rocball creator James Feger after she conducted a kids' clinic at the Marianas High School Gymnasium in December 2007.

MARK RABAGO



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Sakudi's Eileen Alepuyo delivers a pitch against Red Dirt during their game in the women's division of the 7th Annual Miller Lite Marianas Cup Slow-pitch Softball Qualifier last Saturday at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield.